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RUSSIANS IN HIGH PLACES.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL still aspires to be the leader of a party. The sweets of power are too sweet to be renounced without a pang and a struggle by a man who loves patronage and his cousins so dearly. Though, if such an act as political suicide was ever committed, Lord John did the deed on his return from Vienna, there is still some spasmodic life left in him. He finds others in the same predicament as himself. He looks around him, and discovers strange companions at his side—some like the clever but erratic Mr. Gladstone, who respect if they do not adore Russia, as the impersonation of Might, and consequently of Right; others like Mr. Cobden, who can imagine any or every cause to be a good one except that in which their own country may happen to be engaged; others like Sir James Graham, who helped to get us into the war, and who, when they heard the booming of its guns,

Back recoiled, they knew now why,
Even at the sound themselves had made

and others like John Bright, who hate all war but that which is made with the bitter invective of the exasperated tongue. Out of this mass Lord John Russell has apparently bethought himself that he might reconstruct a party. With himself as Premier, Mr. Gladstone as Foreign Secretary, Sir James Graham as Minister of War, Mr. Cobden as Home Secretary, Mr. Sidney Herbert as Colonial Secretary, and Mr. Bright as Chancellor of the Exchequer, we should have an Administration that would carry joy into the councils of Count Buol, make glad the heart of the King of Prussia, and fill St. Petersburg with rejoicing.

Come the eleventh plague rather than this should be;
Come, sink us rather in the sea!

On Tuesday Lord John put forth a feeler, to ascertain from the opinion of Parliament and the country whether any chance of

political resurrection was yet left to him, or whether, as a Minister, he was indeed defunct. We do not think his Lordship will gather much comfort from the reception he met with. The ostensible object of his speech was to call attention to the occupation of Italy by foreign troops; but whether to complain of the Austrians in Lombardy and Venetia, or of the French at Rome, no one could discover. Nor after he had delivered his speech was any one much the wiser in this respect, though it will be painfully evident to most of his Lordship's former admirers, and evident without the pain, to those who never ranked themselves under his banners or those of the Whig party, that his career as a practical statesman is at an end; that he has not the great heart for a great occasion, and must stand aside with other pragmatics and theorists, and allow the business of the world to be carried on by men of sounder intellect, more heroic temperament, and more patriotic purpose. The speech was remarkable for nothing except its irrelevancy; and what is more humiliating—considering the high position the speaker once held, and might have continued to hold—its persistent exaggeration of the sacrifices which the country has been and will yet be called upon to make; and the equally persistent concealment of all the brighter colours of the picture. But it called forth a reply from Lord Palmerston which was worthy of a British statesman. The speech of the Premier was a large antidote to a small bane; and Lord John may for Lord Palmerston's sake be forgiven for his last effort to damage his ex-colleagues—and to raise himself an inch out of the Slough of Despond, into which he has not fallen, but leaped. There let him lie; and with him, all such men as will not, in the day of sacrifice, and in a just cause, aid their country with their whole heart and strength.

The condition of the States of Italy, with the parenthesis of that of Spain, thus incidentally brought before the notice of the House

of Commons, has, however, drawn attention to the whole subject of the minor States of Europe, and their influence—near or remote, actual or possible—on the conduct of the war. "Holy Russia"—the great object of the respect, if not the adoration, of Mr. Gladstone—is busily at work amongst them all. No doubt it is a wise policy on the part of the Czar to attempt to create diversions in his favour wherever he can. If the great Powers are against him, the smaller Powers may be of service in his cause. Nothing is too little for his needs or too remote for his machinations. If Austria and Prussia—who might be great, but whom cowardice, if not treachery, makes little—are not in the position to help him as effectively as they might, there are other States in Europe which, by timely and astute management, may be made conducive to bewilderment of council among the Allies, if not to the dispersion of their strength.

Greece afforded the first and most tempting field for the Czar's experiments in this direction. For the present the design has been foiled; but that miserable little kingdom requires to be closely watched, lest renewed attempts should be made by Russian emissaries—in the much-abused name of religion—to foment rebellion on the Turkish border. But it is in the smaller States of Germany that Russian agency is most busy and most powerful; and it is towards these States, if Austria and Prussia continue by their dastardly neutrality to play the Czar's game, that the watchfulness of Great Britain and France must be most earnestly directed. Already, under Russian dictation, the amiable but silly King of Hanover—an Englishman, who ought to have known better—has abolished the Constitution granted to his subjects by his father, and has appealed to the Germanic Confederation for the aid of a military force to prevent his betrayed and outraged people from rising in insurrection. We learn, at the same time, by the publication



PALACE OF ST. CLOUD, TO BE APPROPRIATED TO QUEEN VICTORIA DURING HER VISIT TO PARIS.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



in the Paris journals of a remarkable correspondence seized on the person of a Spanish refugee, that the pretenders to the Crowns of France and Spain have severally and jointly been engaged in intrigues with Prince Gortschakoff at Vienna, of which the object was to procure a supply of Russian gold, to foment insurrection in France in favour of the legitimist Count de Chambord; and in Spain in favour of the equally obsolete, equally blinded, equally stupid and impracticable pretensions of the Count de Montemolin. It does not appear with what favour the negotiations were entertained; but the very proposal shows the idea which the enemies of popular right in all parts of Europe have formed of the part to be played by Russia in the great drama of our day. Things like these, and the jesuitical attempt of Lord John Russell to throw odium on the occupancy of the Papal States by the troops of France, will tend to bring about what the Governments of England and France have striven to prevent—the extension of the war into a war of principles. In such a war it will be Austria, Prussia, and Russia that will be the sufferers. Neither England nor France has any reason to dread it. Its conclusion would leave neither of them smaller or less powerful; but, with a free Italy, a free Germany, a free Hungary, and a free Poland, the ambition of Russia, and the mean cowardice of Austria and Prussia, would be effectually and appropriately punished. If this be the consummation to which events are tending, neither France nor England will have to reproach itself with the protracted horrors of the war which will be the consequence. Austria might have prevented it had she been wise and honest, and been blessed at this moment with a Schwarzenberg or a Stadion in her councils, instead of a Buol. In the meantime the Allies, as well as Russia, have their eyes on the smaller States of Europe, and on those populations and races that have political aspirations. The same journals that will convey to the world the valueless opinions of Lord John Russell upon the state of Sardinia, Naples, and the Papal Territories, contain the announcement that France has urged upon the Pope the immediate secularisation of his Government, and that the Pope and the Cardinals have refused to accede to the proposal. Lord John Russell and Mr. Gladstone may thus be assured that Italy will be properly cared for when the time is ripe. But if either of these eminent persons have any common sense left him, and be not in the painful position which Sir William Molesworth supposes to be that of Mr. Cobden—a state of aberration of mind—he will do well to pause ere he serve to extend the war by the insane efforts which he makes to put an end to it.

THE PALACE OF ST CLOUD:

THE RESIDENCE OF HER MAJESTY DURING HER APPROACHING VISIT TO PARIS.

In a few days the Queen of England will watch a summer sunrise from the windows of St. Cloud. Remarkable as are the historic episodes belonging to the Palace which derives its name from St. Cloud, the grandson of Clovis, this visit must be considered, by every sagacious student of public events, the most important element of its varied story. We propose to draw a rapid outline of this story from the time when Edward III. of England burned the village, and put its inhabitants to the sword, after the battle of Poitiers, down to the occupation of the château by the present Emperor of the French. We may pass rapidly by those troubled times when St. Cloud was the scene of civil wars the most bloody, and when the pious monks were continually running away to Paris with the body of their saint and the valuables of their church, to avoid the rapacity of the conquering party. The village grew in spite of the enemies who continually menaced and often damaged it, till, in 1547, we find there an episcopal palace, sufficiently magnificent to be used for that long and grim solemnity—the funeral service of Francis I. Here the effigy of the dead King was placed, and the officers came, and did duty as though he were alive, during eleven days. They served his dinner, and went through all the etiquette of the Royal repasts, in solemn silence; and then the clergy of Paris carried off the corpse to St. Denis. During the reign of Henry II., son of Francis, a Royal country residence, in the Italian style, was built here; and the King ordered the old wooden bridge to be replaced by one in stone. This structure so far excited the wonder of the villagers as to lead to the belief that supernatural agency had been evoked to complete it. The legend ran that the builder being unable to finish his work, the devil appeared to him and offered to complete it, if he might have the first thing that should venture upon it. The builder assented, and, when the last stone was fairly placed, threw a cat upon it, which the devil carried off, much enraged at so slight a reward for so fine a structure. Scenes of carnage were still in store for the villagers, during the struggles between the Huguenots and Catholics of France; and it is said that in the country seat here, which formed the kernel of the splendid present château, which then belonged to the banker Jerome Gondi (one of the followers of Catherine de Medici), amid the pleasures of a sumptuous fête the first idea arose of the massacre of St. Bartholomew! It was in this residence also that an assassin's hand destroyed the last scion of the houses of Valois—the patron of omelettes powdered with musk and amber—Henry III. of France! Dark were these days to the villagers of St. Cloud when the assassin Jacques Clement was quartered in the square before the church, and burned; and when, a few years later, the men of the League picked up the ashes of the monk, and went on their way with them by water to Paris, only to find a grave in the river with their relics. Many difficulties lay between Paris and the Monarch, who finally entered his capital, resolved to "forget all errors, and bear in mind only the services he had received." A gap here occurs in the history of St. Cloud. From the date of Henri Quatre's death, to the time when Philippe Duke of Orleans, and brother of Louis XIV., built the Palace of St. Cloud, this spot was not the scene of any important event. Turenne's presence in the borough, and the vain efforts of Condé to wrest it from him, may be passed by. The only point in the history of Louis XIII. in which we find any mention of the Maison Gondi is that where the provost of the merchants, &c., of Paris brought him the keys of the capital.

We now approach the interesting part of the story of St. Cloud, and particularly of its connection with the Royalty of France. It appears, according to one authority, that the Maison Gondi long remained in the hands of the Gondi family, and that it was bought by Louis XIV. of J. F. de Gondi, first Archbishop of Paris, on the 8th of October, 1650. On the other hand, we are assured that it was in the possession of Hervard, Comptroller of Finances in 1655, since it was in this year, according to the *Gazette de France*, that Louis the Fourteenth, accompanied by his brother, paid the Comptroller a visit, and dined with him. The King was delighted with the house and grounds. Already water-works enlivened its undulating park; since we find that Hervard had bought all the waters of Garches from the Lady Dupré. The satisfaction of the Monarch and Monsieur probably cost the proprietor his pleasant retreat. A few days after the Royal departure, Mazarin paid Hervard a visit, and, artfully questioning the Financial Minister on the value of his splendid residence, contrived to force him to depreciate its worth, lest he should be too narrowly questioned as to the sources of his wealth. It is said that on the morrow of this visit the Cardinal sent Hervard 300,000 livres, with a letter informing him that the King wished to possess his house for the Duke of Orleans, his brother. A notary was the bearer of the letter and the money, the contract was drawn up, and the proprietor dared not refuse his signature. Thus, according to one authority, the Maison Gondi passed into Royal hands, and an unscrupulous Comptroller was made to disgorge a large proportion of his ill-gotten gains—the real value of the property being nearly one million of francs. According to the archives of the Crown, however, Monsieur bought the Maison Gondi for 240,000 livres.

This old residence formed the nucleus of the spacious château—now prepared for the Queen of England. To its dependencies the Duke of Orleans added *le Tillet*—a house belonging to the Duke de Charost, the fief of Villeneuve; while, on the other hand, to add to the park, Louis XIV.

gave his brother upwards of thirty-one arpents of land, situated on the top of the hill, half of the manor of Sèvres, and other properties. The Duke made so many changes and additions to the house that it has become a difficult matter to determine where and when the Maison Gondi remained and the new château began. It is, however, certain that when the Duke bought the Comptroller's house it was already a splendid residence, and fit for its illustrious purchaser to inhabit. According to the journals of the time, Louis XIV., accompanied by Marie-Thérèse and Anne of Austria, went to St. Cloud in a richly-ornamented bark, and was entertained by his brother with great magnificence. In the evening a play was acted by the Royal troupe in the illuminated gardens; and boats filled with musicians enlivened the river. When, however, the King thought of his brother's marriage, he determined to have this pleasant retreat turned into a fine Royal château. Accordingly, in 1680, his Majesty confided the architectural part of the improvements to Lepaute and Girard; the park and gardens were entrusted to the taste of Le Nôtre; and a little later Jules H. Mansard reconstructed the cascades. In this year a splendid ball was given at St. Cloud to celebrate the Duke's betrothal to Henriette, daughter of Charles I. of England. In the following year the marriage took place at the Palais Royal. From this time the château, and the splendid grounds that encompassed it, were the scenes of brilliant fêtes and spectacles. The Duchess was a most charming hostess; and in the end, there is too much reason to believe, a helpless victim. She died at the château on the 30th of June, 1670, in her 26th year. This death threw but a passing gloom over St. Cloud, for in the August of 1671 the grounds were once more illuminated to please the King; and in November of the same year the widower became the husband of Elizabeth Charlotte of Bavaria. Thus revels rapidly succeeded the gloom which Bossuet had depicted in one of his energetic *oraisons funèbres*.

Soon after this marriage the Duke gave a fête to his brother the King which illustrates the capacity of St. Cloud at this epoch. The château was crammed with rare flowers, intermixed with bubbling fountains, raised one above the other, and unseen musicians played behind the bosquets. The great cascade, and the basin with thirteen fountains, were playing; there was the Cabinet de l'Aigrette, approached by a maze, in which the visitor was delighted to be lost. Here, amid orange-trees, tuberoses, and plashing waters, the brilliant Court wandered under a cloudless sky. At the decline of day this fairy spot was left for a pavilion recently built at the extremity of the Long Avenue. Here the King found a splendid show of flowers, supported by silver sticks, tied with gay ribbons, and contained in costly porcelain vases. Here a banquet was prepared; which being prolonged till after dark, the King only issued from the pavilion to find an artificial daylight in the grounds. We are told, in the bombastic style of the times, that it seemed as though the sun had hastened his return, in his curiosity to see so illustrious a company. It appears, however, that the illuminations were most artistic and extensive; amid which the great jet, illuminated to its full height, seemed to throw columns of fire into the basins below, where floated swans motionless with wonder! But the illuminated cascade was the triumph of the night. Here fire and water appeared to have lost their power over each other, and to mingle in rolling masses of solid light! After the illuminations the King entered the château, which was brilliantly lighted, and decorated in every part with rare flowers. Here a comedy was played; then a supper was served; then a ball was given; and then the illustrious guest returned to St. Germain.

Fêtes in the style of the foregoing were given at the birth of the Duke de Valois, the baptism of the Duke de Chartres (born at St. Cloud, and afterwards Regent), and that of his sister. From the enjoyment of these fêtes the Duke went to give battle to William of Orange upon the plains of Cassel; and to return, with the glories of a conqueror, to Saint Omer. Once more arrived at St. Cloud, the whole population of the borough turned out to meet him. This popularity displeased the King, and the two brothers became, for the time, rivals. The Duke carried out his rivalry even in his château. The King had employed Le Brun to decorate Versailles. Mignard, the jealous rival of Le Brun, was now appointed to decorate a great gallery at St. Cloud. Mignard was employed for a considerable time in the decoration of the ducal château. The Gallery of Apollo, that of Diana, and the Salon de Mars, are evidences of his genius. The inauguration of the Gallery of Apollo was the occasion of a brilliant fête given by the Duke to Louis XIV. The hero of Cassel appears to have sought every possible excuse for a festival at his favourite residence. Here he celebrated the Peace of Nimeguen; the departure of Marie Louise of Orleans for Spain; the first visit of the Dauphin to St. Cloud; the visit of an ambassador from the Emperor of Morocco; the birth of the Duke of Burgundy; and, when hard pressed, probably, for an occasion, the success of a surgical operation performed upon the King! These festivities were given with prodigal pomp, and the illustrious visitors often carried away with them valuable presents. These presents were distributed among the guests by lottery. One of the more remarkable of these lotteries was that of the festival given in honour of the Ambassador from Venice, on the 9th of August, 1689. Among the ladies who obtained presents on this occasion we find the names of Madame de Valentinois, Madame de Montauban, and Madame de Portsmouth. The death of Marie Thérèse suspended these gaieties, and hither the bereaved King retired to mourn his loss with his brother.

It was on the 27th of August, 1698, that an exiled King of England, with his Queen, visited St. Cloud. James II. and his wife came to assist at the baptism of Mlle. de Chartres. On this occasion, we are reminded, a fine banquet was given in the Orangery. At all these fêtes, the cascades, enlivened with flowers, or splendidly illuminated, were the great feature. Repaired about this time, by Mansard, they became celebrated all over Europe.

The death of the Duke of Orleans, and the succession of his son to the property, made St. Cloud a quiet place during two years. The new proprietor then gave a grand dinner upon the grass, and a monster concert in the Salon de Mars. But the Regent could not enjoy the quiet, voluptuous life of his father. His rights once recognised by the Parliament, the Palais Royal became the seat of the Government. Still he found time to add the "Ermitage" to the property. The next remarkable point in the story of the château is the visit of the Czar Peter, on the 23rd of May, 1717. He was received with that severe simplicity which accorded with his taste. Mehmet Effendi, Ambassador of the Sultan Achmet, on the contrary, was here entertained with great pomp a few years later. In 1722, on the 8th of December, after having assisted at the coronation of the young King, at Rheims, the Princess Charlotte of Bavaria, mother of the Regent, died at the château. Her remains had hardly been deposited in the kingly tomb of St. Denis when the Regent, her son, expired. Again the château was a place of mourning.

It now fell into the hands of Louis d'Orléans, and soon afterwards many changes were effected. The statues of the Seine and Marne were added to the cascades; and in 1743, after the marriage of Louis Philippe d'Orléans, the Salle de Spectacle was built. Louis was the Prince who ordered the picture in the Palais Royal of "Leda" to be burned. The new Duchess gave fêtes which surpassed in splendour even those offered to Louis XIV. It was from the park of St. Cloud that the Duke de Chartres, father of Louis Philippe, went up in an aerial ship (constructed by the brothers Robert, and their brother-in-law Collin-Hulin) and nearly lost his life. Here King Louis Philippe passed the years of his infancy, occupying himself upon his own garden, and upon military operations against a toy fort. But Madame de Montesson found St. Cloud too near the Court for her comfort, and desired to live in some place more retired, and free from the stiff etiquette of the time. At the same period Marie Antoinette manifested a desire to become the owner of the château. The Duke, accordingly, sold his property to the Queen for six millions of livres, and her Majesty entered into possession on the 1st January, 1785. Instantly M. Mique, her Majesty's architect, began to effect the changes desired by his Royal mistress, and to look about for little rooms and retreats, like those of Fontainebleau and the *petit Trianon*. But the works of Girard, Lepaute, and Mignard were respected. A new church was begun upon the ruins of Clooldo's edifice, and upon the foundations of the little house wherein Charlotte of Bavaria had idled away her time, listening to the murmurs of the playing waters. Marie Antoinette reared a retreat which she called "Felicité." Poor lady! she was destined never to enjoy the changes she ordered; for soon the revolutionary storm forbade her retreat to St. Cloud, which she never afterwards visited.

We now take up the thread of our story in 1793, when the National Convention had ordered potatoes to be planted in the Tuilleries Gardens, "for the subsistence of the people;" and St. Cloud had been set apart "for the amusement of the citizens of Paris." Soon we find it once more surrounded by an imposing military force. Napoleon was about to seize the reins of power. The Council of Five Hundred met in the Orangery, to the air of the "Marseillaise." The reader remembers the many histories the world has had of this stormy meeting, whence, amid cries of "Down with Cromwell!" "Down with the tyrants!" Napoleon was rescued from the fury of the deputies by his brave Grenadiers; while Sieyès, seated in a coach, drawn by six horses, directed the various strings of the *coup d'état* of the 18th Brumaire, from the avenue of St. Cloud. Lucien Bonaparte, in his harangue to the troops assembled in the court of the château, declared that the factious deputies were, no doubt, "in the pay of England!" It was

in this Orangery that Bonaparte, Sieyès, and Roger Ducos were named joint Consuls. When Napoleon had been, afterwards, appointed for life, when he was Emperor in all but the title, he chose St. Cloud for his summer residence. The boudoirs of Marie Antoinette disappeared; a theatre was built at the extremity of the Orangery; many changes were made to meet the taste of the new occupant; but the galleries decorated by Mignard were left untouched. It was about this time that the lantern of Diogenes was built upon the high ground of the park. It was constructed by the brothers Trabuchet, and was much admired at the exhibition of the year VI. It is properly the lantern of Demosthenes, being copied from a plaster model of an Athenian monument, so called, conveyed to France by M. de Choiseul. When Bonaparte slept at the château, the lighted lantern told Paris that the Chief of the State reposed at St. Cloud. During the Empire the château was the scene of many memorable events. Here Pope Pius VII. baptised the eldest son of Queen Hortense. Here, after Napoleon's divorce from Josephine, the secret council was held, at which three Kings assisted, presided over by the Emperor himself, to consider the most advantageous alliance for the conqueror of Marengo. The decision of the council fell upon the Archduchess Marie Louise, for whom Napoleon had a secret liking. Here also the marriage—that is, the civil ceremony—was performed, on the 1st of April, 1810; the contract having been drawn up on the model of that which united Louis XVI. with Marie Antoinette. On the 15th of August, 1811, the park was once more illuminated—on this occasion to celebrate the birth of the King of Rome. Every tree glowed with lamps; the cascades seemed to be playing with columns of fire; above, the air was bright with wonderful fireworks; and in every direction music arose to enliven parties of dancers. In the midst of all this gaily a violent storm arose, and torrents of rain put out the lamps, leaving only the lightning to give fitful brilliancy to the scene. Sinister predictions accompanied this interruption of the fête; still, here Napoleon passed the quieter days of his active reign—now working in his cabinet—now chatting with the ladies of the Court—now listening to a piece read by his favourite, Talma.

When Napoleon fell, Blücher found his way with the Allied Generals to St. Cloud. Here the coarse Prussian threw himself upon Napoleon's bed; and his dogs were found in the boudoir of the Empress. But we pass rapidly by these sad passages in the history of the château—from the fête here given by the Prince of Schwarzenberg to the Allied Sovereigns in 1815; from the few improvements which Louis XVIII. made to a château of which he does not appear to have been very fond; to the time when Charles X. sent forth the fatal ordinance of the 25th of July, 1830, from this residence—an ordinance which cost him his throne. Here, while blood flowed in the streets of Paris, he sauntered in the gardens, and asked the gardeners the names of various flowers. At last, awakened from his slaty, he retired to Versailles, then, from point to point, to Cherbourg, where he finally took leave of the nation he had misunderstood and misgoverned.

Although Neuilly was incontestably the favourite residence of Louis Philippe, he took care to embellish St. Cloud, where he had passed his infancy. During his reign the architect Fontaine added considerably to the ornamentation of the property; paintings from Scheffer, Allaux, and Picot were added to the internal embellishments, and splendid specimens of Gobelins tapestry, after Rubens, were hung upon the walls. In 1840 the Duke of Nemours was married at St. Cloud, in the Gallery of Apollo. During the reign of the present Emperor of the French the château has been constantly in a fit state for occupation, and has been greatly altered. Here, in 1851, the Emperor, then President, gave a splendid breakfast to the Exhibition Commissioners and the Lord Mayor of London. And here, it may be interesting to add, the first French Exhibition of Industry was arranged by the Marquis d'Avèze, at the close of the eighteenth century.

We have now rapidly noticed the interesting points in the story of the residence selected to receive the Queen of England. They include events illustrative of the varying fortunes even of the most powerful and gifted Monarchs.

NEWSPAPERS TO THE COLONIES.

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

Sir,—The Post-office is about to modify its recent regulation for the transmission of newspapers to the Colonies. Stamped papers, posted within the limits of the place of their publication, are to be sent without any postage charge (except for transit through a foreign State); but if they be first forwarded to any other part of the United Kingdom, and then sent to a Colony, they are to be subjected to a postage-stamp.

It is really a pity to see a great department of the State frittering its time and annoying the public with such petty devices for increasing the postal revenue. The recent Act is causing very great confusion and a heavy amount of additional labour in every post-office in the United Kingdom, and now a fresh clog is to be put on its practical working. But, apart from all other considerations, the injustice and annoyance to the Colonies are, although in a diminished degree, to be continued, and the outlying portions of the British empire are still to be hampered with restrictions on the transmission of British newspapers to them, from which they have been hitherto very justly exempt.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

London, Aug. 8, 1855.

CUSACK P. RONEY.

FRIGHTFUL FIREWORK EXPLOSION.—Dreadful consternation has prevailed in Naples during the last few days, in consequence of an accident involving a considerable loss of life. In the Castel Nuovo there is a portion of it devoted to the making of percussion-caps. There is, of course, much explosive matter lying about; and whilst they were packing a quantity the other day for use in Sicily, through the negligence of workmen the whole ignited, and the entire building was blown up. The alarm for the moment was indescribable. Some feared an earthquake, for all the houses in the neighbourhood were shaken, and the windows in the Royal palace broken; others, as the military, conceived that another revolution—the bugbear of the ruling party—had broken out, and all fled to arms. "Fui! Fui!" the old popular cry of alarm, was raised in every direction; and, amidst shouts and screams, everyone fled everywhere but to his house. When it was possible to enter the floor where the accident took place the spectacle presented was most awful—the backened and mangled bodies of the sufferers lay scattered about, nor was it possible to ascertain the number in full. Two hundred were said to be buried beneath the ruins. This may be probably an exaggerated statement, but a number of carriages were occupied during the whole day in taking off the wounded to the hospitals, and the search was still continued for those who were under the debris. The anxiety and lamentations of those who rushed to the Castel Nuovo to ascertain the fate of relatives were, I am told, heart-rending. Outside, the streets were covered with percussion-caps; medical men were there in great numbers, ready to offer their assistance; and soldiers were on guard, who acted, it is said, with the usual brutality towards the mob. Only imagine that many thousands of tons of English powder, purchased for the Sicilians in 1843, were in the magazines of the castle, enough to have blown up half the kingdom—whilst in the same wing of the building where the accident took place, the fireworks used on occasion of royal fêtes are made, and a quantity of combustible matter therefore was contained in it. Had the Royal family been here nothing less than a grand conspiracy would have been fabricated on the strength of it; as it is, there are doubtful shakings of the head and strange rumours. The King came to Naples on the following day to examine into the state of the case and give relief. Naples has been resounding ever since with the fireworks which were saved out of the wreck and sold.—*Letter from Naples, July 23rd.*

THE NEWSPAPER-STAMP AND POSTAGE.—A gentleman of Huddersfield forwarded the following letter to the Secretary of the General Post-office the other day:—"Sir,—Would you kindly oblige me with a reply to the following question:—Can an unstamped newspaper or other printed matter be sent by post, enclosed in a stamped newspaper to make up the weight allowed (four ounces), the impressed stamp of the latter being duly exposed, or, in other words, will the newspaper stamp under these circumstances serve as a postage stamp?" The Post-office authorities, in reply, say:—"The newspaper stamp is not available for the prepayment of any matter besides the publication upon which it is stamped."

AMERICAN LETTERS.—The mail-bags of the *Pacific* have brought from the United States a considerable number of unpaid letters, addressed for the most part to well-to-do people in England, and being neither more nor less than invitations to "send one pound sterling to the above address and you will hear something to your advantage." The envelope containing these letters bears the superscription of a New York "Office for the Settlement of Claims against the United States Government." As there is every reason to expect that this will not be the last batch of these letters, it is as well that the public to whom they may be offered should have the opportunity of considering whether such communications are worth the shilling which the postman demands for them.

THE DANUBE AND BLACK SEA CANAL.—The project of Mr. Thomas Wilson for a canal from the Black Sea to the Danube—already described—is stated to have received the support of all the Powers interested, and to promise an early realisation. Mr. Wilson, after having at his own expense caused an accurate survey to be made, is associated in the undertaking with Count de Morny in Paris, and Count Breda in Vienna, and is now, it is said, endeavouring by the combined influence of France, England, and Austria, to obtain a firman from the Sultan. The canal, which would be little more than thirty miles in length, will save 258 miles of tedious and dangerous navigation, besides freeing the Danube from Russian influence, and giving extraordinary facilities for the rich grain trade and general commerce of Austria, Servia, Wallachia, and Bulgaria. The points to be connected are the Bay of Kustendje, on the Black Sea, and Rassova, on the Danube.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

FRESH preparations are daily being made to celebrate the arrival of the Queen. Three different palaces—St. Cloud, Fontainebleau, and Versailles—are to be placed at her disposal; and it is expected that a grand fête will be given at each. That at Versailles will, as we have before stated, be of the most surpassing magnificence. The ball will take place in the Galerie des Glaces; the supper in the Salle de Spectacle. All the galleries will be lighted up, the park illuminated, and—for the first time—the Grandes Eaux will play at night.

Since their return from Biarritz the Emperor and Empress, the health of the latter being still delicate, have been residing in retirement at Ville-neuve l'Etang; but his Majesty has been none the less occupied in personally superintending the preparations for the fête at Versailles.

It is reported that the Emperor and Empress will proceed to Boulogne the day before the Queen's arrival, and that, on her joining them there, a splendid review will take place on the sands before the bathing establishment. The Royal and Imperial party will then proceed together to Paris. It is probable, also, that a grand review will be passed in the Champs de Mars at Paris. Six magnificent carriages are being decorated with scarlet and gold for her Majesty's use, and forty persons of different ranks have been selected to attend upon her during the period of her stay.

While death has been busy in the ranks of the French army abroad, it has not spared some of its most distinguished illustrations at home. On Sunday evening, at his residence in the Rue d'Agnesseau, expired suddenly the General Comte Alexandre de Girardin, at the age of seventy-nine. General de Girardin began, at eleven years old, to serve in the navy; later, he entered the army. At Austerlitz, he, with ten men, made 400 prisoners, and took four pieces of cannon. At Osonio, in Spain, he, at the head of his regiment, captured a division of three thousand strong. At Ostrowna, with two battalions of infantry, he repulsed six thousand Russians. At Monterey he destroyed a body of four thousand men; and in the campaign of 1814 he was, after Champaubert and Montmirail, made General of Division by the Emperor for having taken eight thousand Russians, 163 superior officers, the chief General, Olzowif, and twenty-four pieces of cannon. General de Girardin was singularly gifted with the spirit of order, an ardent patriotism, great mental activity, and clearheadedness; and when a succession of dynasties—to which he was too independent to attach himself—deprived him of the opportunity of exercising his military skill and courage, he turned his attention to the most abstruse questions of finance, which he treated with remarkable clearness and depth; to the amelioration of the race of horses; and to the carrying out and preservation of public roads. In 1844 he published a very remarkable work, "Mémoire sur la Situation Politique et Militaire de l'Europe"—a book full of valuable information, of profound research, and of just and clear views.

On the 15th, the fête of the Emperor, the public buildings will be illuminated, the theatres gratis, as well as the Exhibition and the Beaux Arts; the Pont des Invalides, the Pont d'Alma, the Pont de l'Hôtel de Ville, and the Joux St. Jacques will be inaugurated, and the first stone of the Imperial Asylum for Labourers, in the Bois de Vincennes, will be laid.

Madame George Sand is said to have just concluded an arrangement with the Librairie Nouvelle for the publication of various works, with an agreement that each edition is to consist of at least twenty thousand copies. A new book, long expected, "Les Contemplations" of Victor Hugo, is about to make its appearance, which is looked for with lively interest.

It appears pretty certain that, notwithstanding the announcement that the Industrial Exhibition was to close on the 31st of October, it will remain open for two months longer, during which period the exhibitors will be free to leave their property, to carry it away, or to sell it on the spot, the purchasers being permitted to remove the object at the time of the purchase. No doubt an immense majority of the objects exposed will be disposed of in this way, the proprietors of most of the articles finding it more to their advantage to get them off their hands at very low prices, than to undertake the trouble, risk, and expense of repacking, and carriage, with the uncertainty of finding a sale for them at home. The Prince Napoleon has been engaged in a series of organised visits to the Exhibition, attended by the various Commissioners, in order to examine closely and fully into all the details of the various productions. In the collection of Lyons silks we were a few days since shown by one of the persons about the Prince the dress pronounced by him to be his favourite of all the display. It is an extremely rich, chestnut-brown silk, with stripes round the skirt in velvet and plush. The article of furniture most admired by connoisseurs for the extraordinary execution of the wood-carving is that sent by Messrs. Jackson and Graham, of Oxford-street, London. The figures, ornaments, &c., in wood, carved and gilt, present a finish and skill superior to anything of the kind yet produced.

MM. Scribe and Auber are engaged on a new opera, which is, it is said, to be produced at the Théâtre Lyrique. Madame Ristori, crowding triumph on triumph, is drawing fresh crowds to her marvellous representation of *Pia de Tolomei*. In this is a new phase of her genius. Each character in the hands of this marvellous tragedian is made to bear the stamp of its own identity. Adelaide Ristori nowhere appears on the stage: you behold *Mirra*, *Marie Stuart*, *Pia*—each displaying an idiosyncrasy as distinct as did the originals.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL STRUGGLE IN HANOVER.

The first step taken by the new Hanoverian Ministry is one which will not fail to awaken the indignation of the whole kingdom. In an evil hour the King had been induced by the small Court party by whom he is exclusively surrounded to throw himself into their arms, and upset the existing liberal constitution, against the advice of the late moderate Cabinet, and in direct opposition to the wishes of the people. A Royal proclamation was published on the 1st inst., dissolving the Second Chamber of the Estates of the Kingdom; and the next step will be of course to be to convoke a new Chamber, based upon the limited franchise of the former elective law. The country is completely taken by surprise. The Hanoverians, who have always been conspicuous for their loyalty to the family of the reigning Guelphs, are startled at the position they are placed in, of being obliged, in self-defence, to offer a steady but universal opposition, in order to preserve the dignity and independence of the kingdom. This opposition will no doubt be confined for the present to the legitimate steps guaranteed to them by the provisions of the constitution; but people already put their heads together in knots, and ask, each with blank countenance, "If these constitutional means fail, which they inevitably will, what next?"

SPAIN AND THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.

After all that was said to the contrary, it now turns out that the Spanish Government has taken certain steps for contracting a closer alliance with the Western Powers, and taking part in the war in the East. Nothing is yet known as to the terms on which the adhesion of Spain is offered; but it is said in a letter from Madrid, dated August 3, that the Government has expressed its wish and readiness to take part in the Eastern question later on, when its domestic affairs are more settled, and to help the Allies with 25,000 or 30,000 men. The matter will have to be laid before the Cortes, and it will be discussed whether the recruitment shall be voluntary or not, and other details. The visit of the President of the Council and the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Escurial on the 2nd inst. is said to have been to communicate to the Queen the views of the responsible Government on this head—views to which the Court are strongly opposed.

AUSTRIAN ADVANCES TO THE WESTERN POWERS.

A change for the better has taken place in the relations between Austria on the one hand and England and France on the other; and at the present moment the Allied Governments are, or profess to be, satisfied with the Cabinet of Vienna. I do not pretend to answer for the sincerity of the declarations recently made by that Cabinet, nor can I affirm that these declarations are accepted by the generality of the public as *bona fide* expressions of Austrian policy. All I mean to say is, that this Government does not hesitate to express its satisfaction at the present position of affairs as relates to Austria. Prussia has sunk so completely in public estimation, and so little hope is there of her doing anything honourable or spirited, that not a word need be said. I have already contradicted, on good authority, the statement put forth in several of the German papers, that England and France considered themselves disengaged, in consequence of the tergiversations of the Cabinet of Vienna, from the obligations contracted by the Treaty of the 2nd of December, or that a circular had been issued to that effect by the French Foreign-office to its diplomatic agents abroad. There was never any foundation for such a statement, but I presume it must have produced a certain effect, inasmuch as the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs thought it necessary, some days since, to demand of the French Minister at Vienna whether his Government still considered itself as engaged by the Treaty of the 2nd of December, or the contrary. The demand was accompanied by the most positive declarations that Austria regarded herself as much bound as ever by that instrument; that she was still the ally of France and England; that she held and should hold the Danubian Principalities, but only against Russia, and should resist any attempt on the part of that Power to invade or commit any act of hostility against the Ottoman territory in that quarter. It is true that in the present state of the war, confined as its theatre by land was to the Crimea, there were considerations of a paramount kind, not, however, relating to any regard for Russia, which prevented her for the present from commencing hostilities, but that when the proper moment arrived she should not hesitate to join the Allies, and to fulfil the obligations she had voluntarily contracted, and means faithfully to fulfil. A good deal more passed on the same occasion, but I believe I have given the substance of the conversation. In a word, her explanations were considered as satisfactory to the French Government. Communications immediately took place between Vienna and Paris, and between these two capitals and London. The English Government, on being made acquainted with these assurances, given spontaneously, as I am led to believe, by the Cabinet of Vienna, not unreasonably hesitated to give them credence. They feared that it was little more than the repetition of the past; the same vagueness, the same fair professions with out meaning, or without the intention of fulfilling them. Of the members of the English Cabinet, I suspect that Lord Palmerston was the least disposed to take for granted the sincerity of Austria, and the name of an august personage is mentioned as sharing largely the incredulity of his Lordship. That this should be the case is not astonishing, but, if I am informed rightly, and my information is derived from an excellent source, these scruples gave way, and I believe, at the moment I write, both Governments are rather satisfied than otherwise—satisfied that Austria disclaims in a positive manner any sympathy with Russia; that she considers herself still the ally of France and England, and prepared on some future day to join the policy of action which, up to the present day, they have followed out alone. The Emperor of the French, who had found it difficult to believe that his young Imperial brother meant to act otherwise than in the most honourable manner towards the two Governments, but who subsequently found reasons to change his mind, has again, I believe, returned to his original impression, and has very recently manifested his satisfaction at the resumption of the former friendly relations with Austria. Whether these are destined to be again modified I cannot say, no more than I can vouch for their actual truth; but it is certain that the Russian clique at Vienna, which had succeeded to a certain extent in influencing the mind of the young Emperor, and was lately so triumphant, has become, within the last six or seven days, completely discouraged and indignant. It so happened that the change to which I refer took place during the short absence of Prince Gortschakoff at Stuttgart. The Prince left Vienna in the highest spirits, and confident of the triumph of his policy. He returned to his post, and found that all was completely changed; and he has expressed his disappointment and his indignation in no very measured terms. The Austrians at St. Petersburg, who were so lately the objects of the most delicate attentions, will again, I presume, be treated with the same contumely as after the Treaty of the 2nd of December. This state of the relations with Austria has been communicated by the other diplomatic agents at Vienna to their respective Governments, and I know of one whose residence for many years at that Court, and an intimate uninterupted intercourse with most of the leading personages of the day, ought to render him an authority on such subjects, who thinks himself authorised to communicate his own favourable opinion to his Government. Nevertheless, there are others, and those also versed in political affairs, who are far from being so sanguine, and who persist in doubting, if not the good faith, at all events the possibility of Austria ever drawing her sword against Russia.

On a very recent audience which Prince Gortschakoff had of the Emperor of Austria, he did his utmost to obtain from his Majesty the formal acceptance of an engagement from Russia that she would not attack the Danubian Principalities so long as the Austrians continued to occupy them. The Prince at once wrote off to St. Petersburg, to say that the Emperor had accepted the engagement, and subsequently stated so to M. de Buol. M. de Buol unhesitatingly and bluntly told the Prince that he did not credit the statement, and invited him to repeat it in the presence of the Emperor himself. The Prince did so, when the Emperor, in the most positive terms, contradicted the Prince—or himself. Who shall say? If the young Emperor spoke the truth, as I hope he did, it is rather surprising that any Ambassador, and especially a Russian, should so misunderstand what was said to him.—*Paris Correspondent of the Times*, Aug. 7.

THE SOUND DUES AND THE UNITED STATES.

Last April the President of the United States gave official notice to the Danish Government that the Treaty of the 26th of April, 1826, will expire after the lapse of a stipulated period (a twelvemonth), as the American citizens can no longer recognise the right of Denmark to levy the Sound dues on their ships and cargoes. The Danish Cabinet have sent off a note on the subject to the American Government, in which the Minister for Foreign Affairs expresses his concern that the Cabinet of Washington should not have thought proper to enter into negotiations with Denmark on the subject before taking so very decided a step. The shortness of the notice given deprives Denmark, as he alleges, of the power of devoting that time and attention to the subject which are due to a question of so complicated a nature, especially at the present moment, when that country is in a critical state, and pressed on all sides to give up her neutrality and take part in the war against Russia. An unlimited acceptance of the demand of the United States would involve the loss of a large sum annually, and this would be sacrificed in favour of other States which pay the great bulk of the Sound dues, whilst the whole annual amount borne by the United States seldom exceeds 200 dollars. He goes on to say that Denmark is not prepared to make such a sacrifice, especially in the present state of her finances, and the uncertainty of the result of the diplomatic negotiations now pending with respect to the present political crisis. Under these circumstances, he cannot help considering the notice given by the United States to terminate the treaty of commerce and amity existing between the two countries as an act of unfairness and severity, totally uncalculated for and unprovoked by the conduct of Denmark. On the contrary, he says, many cases might be quoted in which the Danish Government has refunded sums of money paid by the American merchants for Sound dues, merely for the sake of preserving the friendly relations between the two countries. The Danish Minister concludes by observing that it will scarcely be possible to come to any arrangement before the expiration of the short period of time named by the American Government; and even in that case it is hardly likely that such arrangement would give universal satisfaction to those other States most deeply interested in the result. As the United States have frequently expressed their determination not to resume any diplomatic intercourse with Denmark till invited by her to open serious negotiations for the abolition of the Sound dues, it is probable that the note of the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs will remain unanswered, at least for the present, and that the negotiations will be resumed only after the 26th of April next year, when the twelvemonth's notice will have elapsed and the treaty become a dead letter.

AMERICA.

The steam-ship *Pacific*, which left New York on the 25th ult., arrived at Liverpool on Sunday.

The *New York Herald* publishes a communication from its Washington correspondent, dated July 20, which states that the President had received an autograph letter from the Emperor of Russia, in reply to one of congratulation on his accession to the throne. The document, which alludes in highly complimentary terms to the increasing greatness of the United States, contains a paragraph to the effect that the dying admonitory advice of the late to the present Emperor conveyed an injunction to him to study the private papers, to be found in the Imperial escritoire, which he (the Emperor Nicholas) had received from the eminent men in the United

States, among whose names were to be found those of Jackson, Clay, Webster, and others. The letter proceeds to acknowledge the value of those papers, and expresses his Majesty's sense of obligation at the strong national interest manifested by the American people in the success of the war upon which his great father had entered. It concludes by proposing the most lasting friendship between Russia and the United States.

The *Washington Union* states that the Secretary of State and the Hon. Wm. L. Lee, his Hawaiian Majesty's Minister to the United States Government, on Friday signed a treaty of commercial reciprocity between the United States and the Sandwich Islands. The President has also made proclamation of a convention between the United States and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, having for its object the recognition of the principle that free ships make free goods.

The Treasury Department gives notice that all wines and distilled spirits transported in bond from one port to another in the United States are required to be branded and sealed; and it is directed that all cigars so transported must be encased and sealed before delivered from store, in the same manner as provided for when passing through the United States to Canada or Mexico.

The parties taken out of the British brig *Buffalo* and conveyed to Boston, where they were tried and acquitted of the charge of violating the neutrality laws by enlisting men for the Crimea, have brought actions against Captain Clark, of the revenue cutter *James Campbell*, for illegal detention and imprisonment. The damage claimed amounts to 40,000 dollars.

The *New York Herald* of the 25th ult. says:—

It having been stated that the French Government are in our markets for the charter of vessels for Constantinople and the Crimea, we have made inquiries on the subject, and have the best authority for stating that the French Government have made no charters of the kind here or elsewhere in the United States, and will not. The vessels they may require would only be taken by direct application from the agents on arrival at a port in Europe, and after examination by the Government surveyors. It may thus be well for our shipowners to be on their guard against swindlers.

THE HANGO MASSACRE.

After a most unaccountable delay, the following statement of Lieut. Geneste regarding the foul atrocity at Hango has been forwarded to Captain Fanshawe:—

LIEUTENANT GENESTE TO CAPTAIN FANSHAWE.

Helsingfors, July 8, 1855.

Sir,—In obedience to your order, on Monday, the 5th of June, I proceeded to the landing-place at Hango Head in the cutter, carrying a flag of truce, in order to land Russian prisoners and communicate with the officer at the telegraph station. We arrived at the pier; and, no person being visible on the shore except two or three women standing near the houses, I landed the Russian prisoners, and, in company with them and Dr. Easton, proceeded towards the houses to communicate with the people, and with the officer of the telegraph. The three stewards also accompanied us, in order, if possible, to purchase fresh provisions. But all the boat's crew were left in the boat, with strict orders not to land, as you had directed. We also carried with us a white flag of truce on a boarding-pike; Norton, the Midshipman's steward, carrying it beside me. We had only proceeded about fifty yards from the boat when suddenly Russian soldiers (who had lain concealed behind the rocks and houses, and of whose vicinity we were completely ignorant) rose and fired on us and the boat from all sides. Taking the white flag from the steward Norton, who was shot down by my side, I endeavoured with it in my hand to prevent the soldiers firing at the boat, and so called the attention of their officer, who came near me, to it. However, I regret to state that the firing did not cease until many of our people had been hit. As we were completely surrounded by soldiers it was impossible to effect our escape, the soldiers being within a few yards of the boat on every side; and seeing the futility of making any resistance, not having a loaded musket in the boat, and the greater number of our small boat's crew of eleven men being killed and wounded by the first fire of the enemy, not a shot was fired on our side. We were all seized by the soldiers, taken to the houses, and without a moment's delay placed in carriages which appeared to me to be ready for us, and transported to Eckness, where we arrived the same afternoon. I regret to have to state that we have lost six of our men killed, and four have been wounded badly, nearly all the others having slight scratches. One Finnish captain was also killed, and two Russian captains wounded. The wounded men were carried to Eckness, and placed in hospital there. I inclose a list of the killed and wounded. The fate of several of the killed I know only by the Russian report, as we were hurried away too quickly from the scene of action to ascertain it for ourselves; but I fear their report is too true, as we have six men missing, and they report seven dead bodies at Hango Head, which would be correct with our six men and the old Finnish captain, whom we saw shot down and bayoneted. We remained at Eckness during Tuesday, and on Wednesday Mr. Sullivan, myself, and the four unwounded men were removed to this place, leaving the four wounded men at Eckness, with Dr. Easton to attend them. The wounded men were all doing well when we left Eckness. One of them, Gliddon, had to undergo amputation of his right arm, near the shoulder, which had been successfully performed. Since our arrival at Eckness we have received every attention and kindness from the Russian General and officers that our position would admit of. The wounded men have been treated with the greatest care and consideration. I requested General Möller, the officer commanding at Eckness, to send a boat on the day following this unfortunate affair, to the ship, with a flag of truce, to inform you what had happened, but he declared it to be impossible. I do not know how this letter will reach you, but the General will forward it by the first opportunity. As we were taken prisoners under a flag of truce, I presume we shall be shortly released, but am at present in perfect ignorance of their intentions with respect to us. I send this letter open and unsealed.

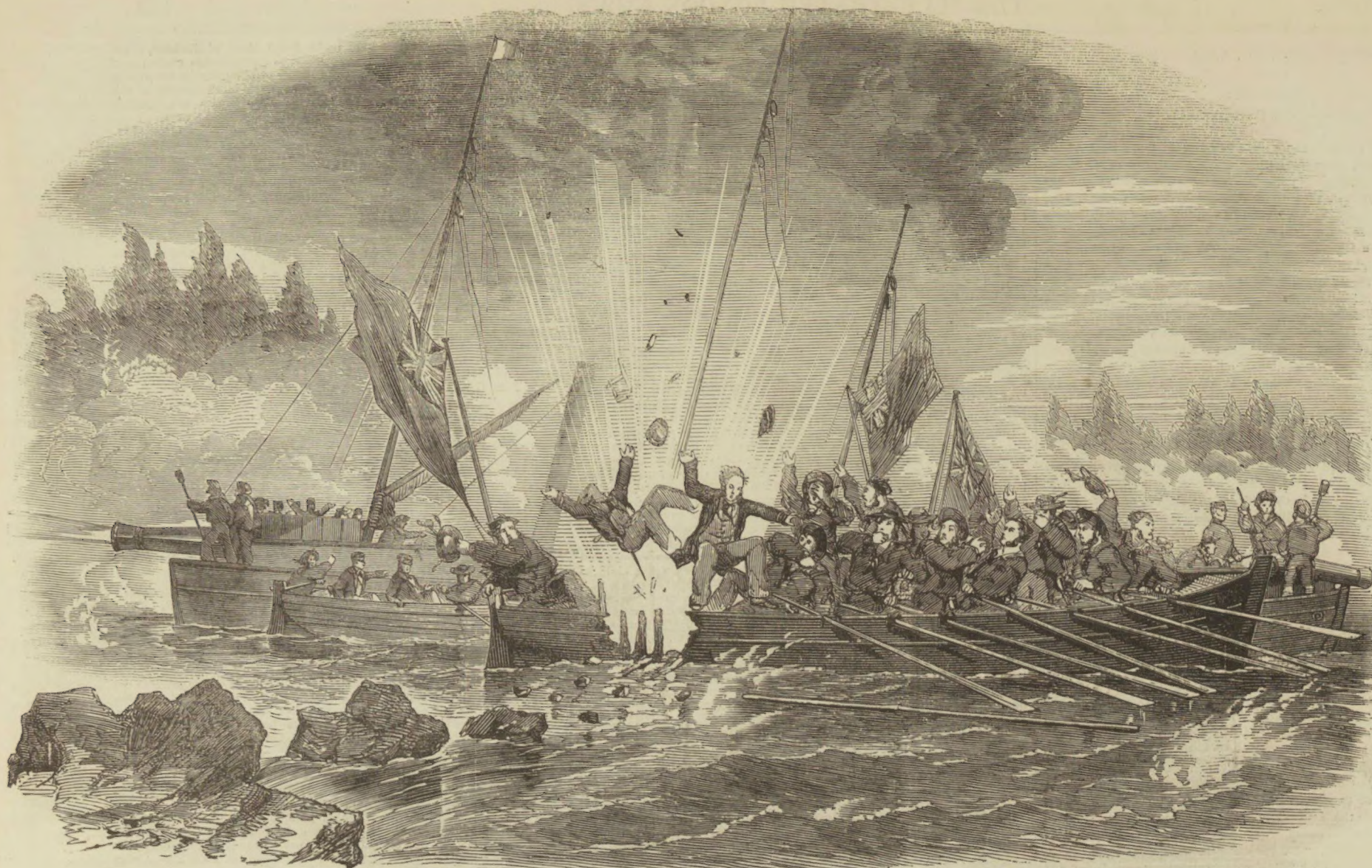
I am, &c., LOUIS GENESTE, Lieutenant.

On the receipt of this report Admiral Dundas wrote a despatch to Prince Dolgorouky, summarising the whole case, and pointing out how the facts elicited established his original assertion of the violation of the privilege of a flag of truce. He recapitulates the facts of the case:—

The point of landing to which the boat was ordered to proceed was near a telegraph station, from which the *Cossack* herself must have been plainly observed. The habitual vigilance at these telegraphs is known to the officers under my orders. The boat quitted the ship at a considerable distance from the shore, and was for a long time in full view of the telegraph. It is impossible to believe that her motions were not watched, and the flag was hoisted at a mile from the shore. It was therefore clearly the duty of the principal officer on the spot either to give timely warning to the boat that her approach was objectionable, or to report the flag which she displayed, if her signal had been unguardedly neglected. Timely warning to the boat would have prevented the catastrophe; but wilful neglect of the flag, and concealment by those on shore, could be nothing but gross treachery. I have next to compare the statement of Lieutenant Geneste with the third version of the fact, as presented to your Excellency by your own officers. It is asserted by them that the flag of truce was not observed; and I repeat again, without fear of contradiction, that it was hoisted. It is alleged that the crew of the *Cossack's* boat, at the commencement of the attack upon them, threw overboard the gun (cannon) with which she is supposed to have been armed. You may, perhaps, be surprised to learn that the boat in question was not fitted with one, and has never mounted one upon any occasion. I am myself forced to the conclusion that wilful falsehoods have been invented in vindication of a decided outrage, and it is not unimportant to inquire for what purpose the carriages and horses mentioned by Lieutenant Geneste had been previously collected. Some stress is laid on his avowed intention to endeavour to communicate with the officer at the telegraph, and with the people, and to purchase provisions; but, in the absence of troops, some little explanation to the nearest authority, or to the nearest residents, was at least desirable and natural on behalf of the prisoners intended to be released. A moment of forbearance on the part of the officer who planned the ambush would have been sufficient to afford it; and you are well aware that acts of courtesy, and even gifts of ordinary refreshments, are not uncommon on occasions of truce. The *Cossack* was in no sense short of provisions, nor had she been long without refreshments; and I can discover nothing in the statement of Lieut. Geneste to justify the inferences which have been wrested from them.

THE BISHOP OF DURHAM.—The venerable Bishop of Durham has, we understand, had an operation performed for a cataract in the eye. Mr. Wharton Jones was the officiating surgeon, and displayed his usual skill and success. The symptoms are favourable; but the progress of the cure is of course slow. All friends of classic learning and religious toleration will rejoice to hear of the perfect recovery of Dr. Malby.

MADEIRA COLLEGIATE SCHOOL.—The third annual examination and distribution of prizes at this seminary took place during the last week of June, in presence of the Government Inspector of Schools, professors of the College, and friends of the pupils. The gold medal (offered by the Masters of the High-school of Glasgow) was won by Henry Davies; the silver medal by L. A. Ribeiro; Sir Archibald Alison's Prize for History by A. C. Ross; First in Classics by W. C. Hinton and M. Park; and other prizes for English, Latin, Greek, French, History, Geography, Arithmetic, Drawing, Writing, Chemistry, &c., by H. Davies, O. Davies, L. A. Ribeiro, W. C. Hinton, M. Park, A. C. Ross, J. Ross, H. J. Elliott, A. Freeman, J. Jeffreys, H. Burnett, and L. M. D'Orsey.



BOATS RECONNOITRING THE PASSAGE TO WYBORG.

THE BOATS OF THE "ARROGANT" AND "MAGICIENNE" OFF WYBORG.

THE transaction, represented in this Sketch, took place a few weeks ago. The boats of the *Arrogant* and *Magicienne*, with a gun-boat in company, manned and armed, were sent in to reconnoitre in the passage leading to Wyborg. When within some 200 yards of the shore an ambuscade of Russian sharpshooters opened fire upon them, which was sharply returned by our men. Finding that they were too much exposed to the Russian musketry, the boats retreated under cover of the gun-boats. In this encounter we regret to add that four or five men were severely wounded, and, in consequence of the explosion of one of the boat's magazines, a midshipman was thrown overboard and drowned. The masts and rigging of the boats were also very much cut up by the fire of the riflemen. Owing

to the shallowness of the water, the *Arrogant* and *Magicienne* were unable to render any assistance.

As regards the recent proceedings of the Baltic fleet, a letter from Nar-gen of the 31st ult., says:—

The *Amphion* has been for some time reconnoitring all the channels near Sveaborg, and has found many valuable anchorages, and several points where the coasting trade between Borgo and Helsingfors, which was carried on to a considerable extent, can be entirely stopped; and some surprise is expressed that so little was attempted in this way last year by the vessels stationed in that vicinity. The Admiral, to assist Captain Kay in carrying out this service, had placed the *Dragon*, and a French and English gun-boat under his orders, with which vessels he proceeded very nearly to Borgo, which appears to be without any defences, and they met with no resistance whatever, except from shoals, the gun-boats having grounded several times.

It is added that—

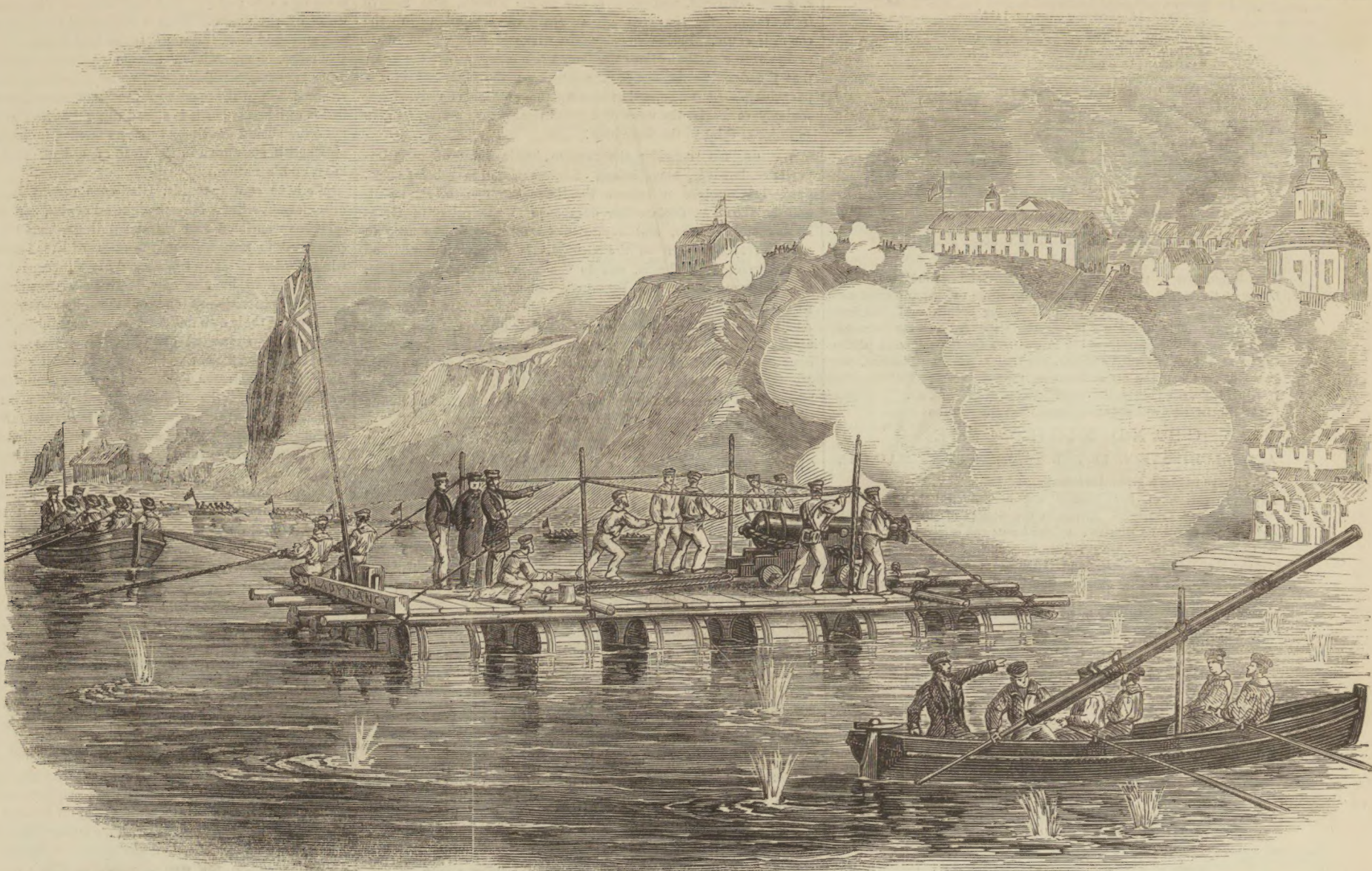
All the gun and mortar boats are going over to Helsingfors. The town will probably be shelled; but it is not expected that the fortifications can be destroyed.

CELEBRATION OF THE EMPRESS DOWAGER'S BIRTHDAY, AT CRONSTADT.

Soon after twelve o'clock on the night of the 13th ult., the sailors on board the Allied fleet before Cronstadt were startled by a tremendous glare in the sky over the island. On looking a little more closely, a number of large bonfires were seen; and, from various symptoms, it was evident that some festivity was going on. At first it was supposed some victory gained was being commemorated; but it was ascertained next morning that the rejoicing was in honour of the Empress Dowager's birthday.



FIRE OVER CRONSTADT, SEEN FROM THE QUARTER-DECK OF "THE CESAR."



THE "LADY NANCY" RAFT ATTACKING TAGANROG, IN THE SEA OF AZOFF.

RAFT IN THE SEA OF AZOFF.

(From a Correspondent.)

I SEND you a Sketch which perhaps may serve to acquaint the authorities at home "what is really useful in the Sea of Azoff." During the recent rapid and brilliant operations in that sea it was found that the shallowness of the water prevented the heavy guns of the ships being brought into play. A raft was accordingly constructed on board the *Stromboli*. It consists of twenty-nine casks placed in six rows, cradled, as it were, in a framework of spars 45 feet long and 15 feet broad; a portion of the upper part is firmly planked over; a spar lashed athwart ships is ingeniously fitted with straps, to which the side tackles, &c., are hooked; the train tackle being hooked to one similarly fitted abaft; while a spar taken to two stout towing bollards abaft serves to keep the raft in any direction required. When this novel gun-boat was finished, the *Miranda* hauled alongside the *Stromboli*; purchases from both vessels were applied, and the enormous mass was raised a little above the *Stromboli's* gunwale, by steadily heaving in on their cables, the ships slowly separated, the pur-

chases were lowered, and the wide-famed *Lady Nancy* was added to the British navy.

Seldom has a more lively scene, or a more perfect display of energy been witnessed, than that which presented itself on the quarter-deck of the *Stromboli* during the building of the *Lady Nancy*. The ever-being-swept dazzling white parade ground, was now a building yard; all hands saw not only the importance, but the necessity of the work; and in the incredibly short space of twelve hours the *Stromboli's* zealous crew had provided themselves with a gun-boat, which, when carrying a long 32-pounder gun, weighing forty-two cwt, 100 rounds of ammunition, a seven-inch hawser, and eighteen men, drew only twenty inches of water. I hear it is cheerfully admitted by the squadron, how nobly, and coolly her crew fought her. At Taganrog this flaming *Lady Nancy* fired more than eighty rounds with a precision that elicited hearty cheers from our allies. She has been towed more than 200 miles, in boisterous weather, not a nail or lashing has started, she is still what she was designed to be—perfection. The following was the crew of the Raft:—1. Mr. A. K. Forde, Senior Mate (in charge). 2. Mr. F. Armstrong, Gunner. 3. Mr. Albert, Master. 4. Mr. J. S. Adams, Assistant-Surgeon. 5. Lieut. John F. Ross, Com-

manding the Raft, and Senior Lieutenant of the *Stromboli*. 6. Mr. John Retallick, Paymaster (in charge).

THE ARTILLERY TAKING LANCASTER GUNS DOWN TO THE FIRST PARALLEL BY NIGHT.

WHAT whipping and spurring, not unmingled with volleys of very irreverent language, to say the least of it, must the carriage of these huge pieces of artillery have cost, as they passed along these rough roads, which must be difficult enough even in the daytime, without adding the evils of darkness. One may imagine what a striking picture the scene would present to any one of the drivers who had curiosity enough to look round him. Looking towards Sebastopol the view must be very grand from some of the heights, on a fine night, especially when the firing from the Malakoff Tower is brisk. So far as the carriage of great guns is concerned, however, the drivers would, probably, not rejoice greatly in the sight of such fireworks, which must have rather disturbed the horses employed in that very responsible occupation.



BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—ARTILLERY TAKING LANCASTER GUNS DOWN TO THE FIRST PARALLEL, NIGHT.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, August 12.—10th Sunday after Trinity.
 MONDAY, 13.—Old Lammas-day.
 TUESDAY, 14.—Printing invented, 1437.
 WEDNESDAY, 15.—Assumption.
 THURSDAY, 16.—Riots in Montreal, 1849.
 FRIDAY, 17.—Duchess of Kent born, 1786.
 SATURDAY, 18.—Beattie died, 1803.

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE,
FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUGUST 18, 1855.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
M. 2 0 h m	M. 2 20 h m	M. 2 28 h m	M. 2 31 h m	M. 2 38 h m	M. 2 42 h m	M. 2 47 h m
A. 5 27 h m	A. 5 55 h m	A. 6 13 h m	A. 6 28 h m	A. 6 42 h m	A. 6 55 h m	A. 7 05 h m

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO PARIS.

COMPLETION OF THE GREAT EXHIBITION IN FRANCE.

THE Subscribers to the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS are respectfully informed that every arrangement has been made to ensure correct and splendid Illustrations of the above interesting events. All the best Artists in London and Paris are specially engaged for the occasion. Already immense preparations are in progress for the reception of the Queen at the Palace of Versailles, the Palace of Fontainebleau, the Palace of St. Cloud, the Elysée Bourbon, the Palace of the Tuilleries, the Hôtel de Ville, the Louvre, the Great Exhibition at Paris, &c.

The Illustrations will include a Large Engraving of the

GRAND NIGHT FETE

AND ILLUMINATIONS IN THE GARDENS OF VERSAILLES, such as have not been given since the time of Louis XIV.

The Reception of her Majesty on her Arrival in Paris, the Decorations and Triumphal Arches in the Streets of Paris, the State Visit to the Great Exhibition; splendid new and original Portraits of the Queen and Prince Albert; the Emperor and Empress of the French; the Prince of Wales, and the other younger branches of the Royal Family visiting France; will also be comprised in the Series of Illustrations.

Next week, August the 18th, her Majesty's Arrival on the Shores of France. And, on August the 25th,

PICTURES OF THE GRAND ROYAL VISIT TO PARIS.

In the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for Sept. 1st will appear further splendid Views of the Fête; on Sept. 8th, completion of the Illustrations, with Views of the Queen's Return to England; and on Sept. 15th to this series of magnificent Pictures will be added the best specimens of Pictures from the Fine Arts department of the Paris Exhibition.

Persons wishing to subscribe to this series must order immediately, as the demand is sure to exceed the supply. Subscribers giving their orders to the various newsmen will be supplied in rotation as received.

ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS OFFICE, 198, Strand.

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1855.

THE telegraphic despatches from the Black Sea and the Baltic communicate no news; but we have reason to believe that the lull in both places will be of short continuance, and that in each of them a grand blow is meditated, and ready to descend upon the Russian strongholds and their defenders. From the Baltic our private letters inform us, under date of the 29th ult., that an attack upon Sveaborg by the Allied fleets was daily expected. They communicate additional particulars, which, however, we do not feel ourselves justified in giving to the public. Should that attack be made, as we firmly believe it will, our sailors, weary of inactivity, and jealous of the glory long promised and withheld, will do their duty, we

cannot doubt, as manfully, and with as brilliant success, as their illustrious predecessors in the heroic days of Nelson and his compeers, and will excite in the French, and receive from them, the impetus of a generous emulation in the common cause. From Balaclava the whole purport of the public and private communications that reach this country is to the effect that the decisive moment for the attack on the Malakoff is approaching. Let us hope that during the auspicious visit of her Majesty to Paris the news of a great victory may arrive, to give additional éclat to the festivities!

We do not consider the fact to be in itself of great importance, but it is, nevertheless, of interest, and may be of value. Spain has resolved to imitate the brave example of Piedmont, and is about to declare her adherence to the policy of Great Britain and France, and her intention to raise and convey an army of 25,000 men to the Crimea. If Spain, impoverished and distracted as she is, can do the right thing, and Austria, not so impoverished and distracted, and avowing her sympathy with the cause of the Allies, continues to hold aloof, must not Austria yield the place to Spain in the public opinion of the world, and rank below that Power in the estimation of every man of honour and spirit? Most people will think so; though possibly Mr. Gladstone, Lord John Russell, Count Buol, Prince Gortschakoff, and a few other persons who have faith in Russia and none in England and France, will be of a different opinion.

THE Parliamentary return of the number of stamps issued to the newspapers of the United Kingdom, during the half-year ending the 30th June, has just been published. As, in consequence of the repeal, during the present Session, of the compulsory Stamp-duty on newspapers, it will be the last document of the kind which can have any claim to completeness, a greater value than usual is attached to it. The following is the circulation of the daily morning and evening journals:—

MORNING PAPERS.	No. of Stamps
The Times	9,175,788
Morning Advertiser	1,034,618
Daily News	825,000
Morning Herald	554,000
Morning Post	465,000
Morning Chronicle	401,500
EVENING PAPERS.	No. of Stamps
Globe	540,000
Sun	378,000
Standard	202,000

The following is the list of the political weekly papers published at the price of 6d.; and of those published at 3d.:—

WEEKLY PAPERS PUBLISHED AT SIXPENCE.	No. of Stamps
The Illustrated London News	3,393,151
Weekly Dispatch	1,042,450
Bells Life in London	465,500
Bell's Weekly Messenger	304,000
Observer	214,000
Sunday Times	163,000
Era	132,740
Examiner	127,000
Press	77,000
Spectator (price 9d.)	67,500
Field	56,000
Atlas	42,000
Leader	41,500
John Bull	40,500
Britannia	32,925
Court Journal	14,700
WEEKLY PAPERS PUBLISHED AT THREEPENCE.	No. of Stamps
News of the World	2,885,000
Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper	2,517,500
Weekly Times	1,993,853

It will be seen from the above that the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS has a far larger circulation than that of any weekly journal whatsoever, even than those which are published at half its price, as it exceeds the most popular of the cheapest of them by no less than 508,151 stamps. It may also be calculated from these figures that the average amount of our circulation is upwards of 130,000 each impression; and that the whole of the sixpenny weekly newspapers, including such favourite and long-established journals as the *Weekly Dispatch*, the *Observer*, *Bell's Life*, and twelve others of considerable repute and influence, only consumed stamps during the six months to the number of 2,820,810, or less by 564,341 than those consumed by the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS during the same period. It will also appear, although the *Times* consumed the enormous number of 9,175,788 stamps in the half year, that our circulation is even larger than that of the great leviathan of the press. The *Times* has daily a circulation of about 59,000, or less than half that of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS. The combined circulation of the five morning Journals which compete with the *Times* is greatly inferior to that of our powerful contemporary, as any one may calculate for himself; but it may be permitted to us to observe that the *Morning Advertiser*, the *Daily News*, the *Morning Post*, the *Morning Chronicle*, and the *Morning Herald* consumed in the half-year only 3,280,188 stamps; or the whole five of them, published six times a week, issued less stamps by 113,000 than those made use of by our Journal. This is a proud position to occupy, and we need say no more than that no exertions on our part shall be wanting to maintain it.

THERE may not be many causes for any great amount of popular exultation just now; but the satisfaction which the country must feel in the thought that Mr. Gladstone is no longer our Chancellor of Exchequer partakes of the feeling one experiences on escaping from a danger and a shame. Englishmen are compelled to be thankful that the member for Oxford can no longer be actively mischievous. Lest there should be any mistake in the public mind as to his real views on the war, and lest those who admire his eloquence, appreciate hisadroitness, and have felt thankful to him for his endeavours in days gone by to carry out a Free-trade policy, should be induced to believe his present course less unworthy than it seemed, Mr. Gladstone has deliberately re-stated his alleged convictions. The result is that by a species of political suicide—as bad as that of Lord John Russell—Mr. Gladstone has terminated abruptly a career which might have been long and honourable. He has publicly proclaimed himself unfit to be trusted, either as a statesman who takes an intelligent view of the politics of Europe, or

as an Englishman who is proud of the character and reputation of his country. Henceforth Mr. Gladstone's exclusion from office must be a *sine qua non* with any Minister who deserves the confidence of the nation. It is a deplorable thing that a gifted and accomplished man, indisputably the best speaker in the House of Commons, of untarnished private character, and with numerous other advantages which ought, under other circumstances, to have retained him in the service of the State, should thus be ostracised by his own hand; but it is a good thing that he and all other men of his order should understand that no talents, no abilities, will stand an English statesman in the stead of a heart that beats with the heart of his nation.

We have said that Mr. Gladstone cannot longer be actively mischievous. Some have thought otherwise, and that his Russian speeches translated and circulated throughout the Continent are calculated to promote the interests of the Imperial master to whom he has virtually transferred his allegiance. We can hardly think this to be the case. These addressess—these "magnificent orations"—as one of the other peacemongers called them, carry their own antidote. To the thinking Continental the propositions supported by Mr. Gladstone must appear so ridiculously insufficient towards accomplishing the purpose of the Allies (and the nearer a reader is to the scene of action the more evident must this be to him), that he can attach no weight to opinions so manifestly worthless; while the pleasure of the ignorant foreigner, who may be gratified at the pro-Russian pleading of the English casuist, must be signally damaged by the patent fact that the whole soul of the British nation is so opposed to Gladstoneism, that this able orator and distinguished man of business is indignantly excluded from the Government of his country. We, therefore, do not see whom Mr. Gladstone can injure: even his own reputation is now past further harm.

His speech of the 3rd instant was not only a laboured argument to show that the Austrian proposals ought to have been accepted, and the war brought to an end, but an endeavour to frighten England by magnifying the power and earnestness of her enemy, and by warning her that her ally would soon drop away from her, for the one reason, all-powerful in Mr. Gladstone's estimation, except when speaking of Russia—a financial consideration. Let us remark, however, upon the singular one-sidedness of this orator, whose pretensions to fairness of argument almost amount to an affectation. Russia—although her landowners are being impoverished, her merchants crippled, her general population distressed by our blockades, and although her resources are already failing, while those of the Allies are scarcely touched—Russia is to be vigorous, enthusiastic, persevering to the end of the chapter. On the other hand, England, with the trade of the world still in her hands, with no appreciable drain upon her means, and with her people ardent in the war—France, with her commerce equally unrestricted, with all her traditional military enthusiasm burning throughout her land, from La Manche to the Mediterranean, and with her capitalists, great and small, flinging, at the call of the Emperor, one hundred and forty-four millions sterling into the war-chest—these two prosperous nations are to be sickened and turn from the strife; while Russia, half ruined, is to march on, conquering. Such is the Gladstonian theory. Such is the nature of the bugbear which he raises to frighten the country.

But, even in his zeal to serve Russia, Mr. Gladstone could not quite forget his own position; and in several portions of his speech his own soreness and discomfort are betrayed most inartistically. The Peelites have long held the conviction that their wisdom upheld the country and the Constitution. They, to adopt the Hindostanee myth, were the tortoise upon whom stood the elephant that supported the world. The tortoise has crawled from under the elephant, and still the world stands. When the Peelites slunk away from place, they expected a toppling over of all things. They waited for this catastrophe, and have still to wait; but now, patient self-complacency has given way to angry disappointment. All things ought to have fallen, but as they have not the Peelites grow abusive. This is the key to a good deal of Mr. Gladstone's speech—he is a faithful Russian, but he is also a spiteful Peelite. He will fight for Alexander, but he must do a little of Diogenes, on his own account, and, from his overturned tub, he must not only assail Lord Palmerston and Lord Clarendon for carrying on the war, but he must also castigate them for carrying on the Government—without him. "He placed the undivided responsibility of the continuance of the war on the heads of the Ministry;" and, later, he censured Lord Clarendon for not showing, in his able despatches, any real desire for peace, and he expressed his own fear of a wider breach with Austria. It is scarcely worth while to reply to allegations of so transparent a character. Lord Palmerston, on a subsequent night, remarked that, if Austria did not fight on our side, he would undertake to say that she would not fight against us—an undertaking which must imply that Lord Palmerston knew how to render available certain guarantees for her neutrality. On this point it may be matter of question whether Austria is not already fighting against us by releasing Russian armies from the necessity of protecting the Russian frontier; and some people may desire that the guarantees hinted at were already exercising their influence in another than a pacific form; but nobody is "afraid" of a wider breach with Austria. If a quarrel with Austria prove the worst thing that can be brought against Lord Palmerston's Government, Mr. Gladstone's chances of achieving its overthrow, and his own return to place, become even more infinitesimal than his own misconduct had rendered them.

Neither Mr. Gladstone, Sir James Graham, nor Mr. Cobden, with their brief tail of half-a-dozen disappointed or disaffected men, can do any mischief. When a Saint is to be made at Rome, there is an official called the "Devil's Advocate," who does his best to malign and damage the reputation of the deceased, in order that the severest scrutiny may be instituted. The sanctity of the present war, undertaken for liberty and humanity, is real, unlike that of the ornaments of Vatican mythology; and it is not amiss that here also should be advocates "on the other side."

BALLOON EXPERIMENTS.—Some very curious experiments are at present being carried on at Vincennes, which, if they succeed, will introduce into modern warfare an element as extraordinary as it is novel. An officer of Marine Artillery has discovered a plan by which he thinks he will be able to blow up the powder-magazines and other defences of Sebastopol—by means of a balloon!

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO PARIS.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

PREPARATIONS are now in active progress in various quarters of Paris for the reception of the Queen. Before the Hôtel de Ville an immense tent has been thrown out over the entrance, surmounted by the equestrian statue of Henri IV. This entrance leads to the covered court of Louis XIV., which is beautifully ornamented. Here the workmen are engaged in the construction of a staircase of honour (in the form of a horseshoe), by which her Majesty may reach the principal chambers of this magnificent official residence. It is expected that two entertainments will be here given in honour of her Majesty's visit—viz., a banquet and a ball. The square before the Hotel, which has been long encumbered with sightless heaps of building rubbish, is being cleared; and before her Majesty arrives in front of the Baron Haussmann's official residence it will present a most imposing effect. The splendid suite of rooms, decorated at an enormous expense on the occasion of the marriage of the present Emperor, in 1853, and three quarters of a mile in length, leaves nothing to be desired, even by the exigence of French taste, to give her Majesty a welcome without parallel. Preparations are also being actively carried out at the Strasbourg Railway Station, from which point her Majesty, on her way through Paris, will pass through a series of triumphal arches, to rest on the following day (Sunday) at St. Cloud.

Since my last communication two points, at all events, appear to have been settled—viz., that the Queen will arrive in Paris on the 18th inst., and that she will land in France at Boulogne, and pass forty-eight hours at this popular port, in order to be present at reviews of the Camps in its vicinity. The festival-loving inhabitants are already making preparations.

At St. Cloud it is arranged that the Queen will occupy the private apartments of the Empress, which are being arranged for the occasion, although their recent decoration left little to be desired. I hear, however, that even the masterpieces of the Louvre are to be laid under contribution to give effect to the temporary residence of the Emperor's illustrious guests.

At Versailles immense preparations are being made, for here will be the grandest of the brilliant fêtes in store for the Queen. The Hall of Mirrors is to be the ball-room; and supper will be served in the Salon des Spectacles. The illuminated part will rival the famed festivals given by the Duke of Orleans to Louis XIV. at St. Cloud. All the *bosquets* will glow with many-coloured lamps; the fountains will appear to scatter columns of liquid fire. Again, there is a rumour that a day will be spent at Fontainebleau; but up to this time no official communication has been made, as far as I can ascertain, for the reception of the Royal guests at that château. It would, however, be a pity to omit Fontainebleau from the list of places to be visited, since in the forest nature offers a splendid welcome to every comer. Then there is not a corner of the château, nor of the surrounding grounds, that would not offer interesting reminiscences to the attention of the Emperor's guests. At the Universal Exhibition it is generally believed that orders will be shortly issued to close the doors during two or three days, to enable workmen to carpet the principal avenues.

BOULOGNE, August 7.

Great preparations are being made here. The railway station is to be decorated, and two triumphal arches are to be erected upon the bridge opposite the station. On the port arrangements are to be made to receive her Majesty opposite the Custom-house. Here three squadrons of the 2nd Lancers will form a square, in the centre of which will be the general officers of the camp, and the municipal authorities of Paris. Here, too, the Emperor and Empress will wait the arrival of the Royal squadron. Along the cliffs, the troops of Honvault, &c., will be drawn up in line of battle. The Chasseurs of Vincennes, Voltigeurs of the Guard, and Grenadiers, will form the line from the point of disembarkation to the railway station. The escort will be formed by the Lancers and a squadron of Dragoons.

Her Majesty will arrive on the 18th at one o'clock; and will proceed direct to the railway station (according to the latest instruction) *en route* for Paris. The royal guests, accompanied by the Emperor, will thus arrive at the Strasbourg railway station about six o'clock in the evening.

At present it is not known to the authorities here whether the Queen will re-embark at this port or at Calais; but it is believed that Calais will be selected. Strange to say, however, there are but few visitors here at the present time.

THE LIMITED LIABILITIES BILL.—We have received an angry letter from Mr. Muntz, M.P., complaining of the comments we felt it our duty to make last week on his opposition to the Limited Liabilities Bill. He denies that the opposition was "organised," and it is that term which seems to have excited his ire. Had we charged him with "collusion," he would have a right to complain; but we made no such assertion or even innuendo. About ten capitalists opposed the measure, and they stood alone in its condemnation. It was a Free-trade measure, as Lord Palmerston observed. The opposition was entirely composed of Free-traders, and it is at least curious that without concert they should all have resolved to repudiate their own principles—principles the advocacy of which procured for all of them their seats in Parliament. When Mr. Muntz tells us, as he does in his letter, that none but commercial and opulent men are "able to judge of the effects of such a measure" as the Limited Liabilities Bill, he lays claim to a monopoly of wisdom which we cannot concede. As to his prophecy of injury or ruin within three years to all classes which must follow the new enactment, we are content to wait the test of time, which is always correcting the theories of men. How Mr. Muntz reconciles his vote with his opinions on currency, between which we pointed a flagrant contradiction, his letter affords no information.

RUSSIAN SUPPLIES THROUGH PRUSSIA.—A foreign merchant, writing to a contemporary, under date of the 31st ult., says:—"The Russians are short of powder, and they procure it at an immense expense by way of Prussia. All East Indian saltpetre, and all Chilean petre (nitrate of soda)—the former imported from the United States, the latter direct—as well as immense quantities of brimstone, are bought up at rising prices for Prussia, where they are refined, and thence sent across the Russian frontier. Have not England and France the means of preventing this?"

MILITARY DISORGANISATION.—A letter from St. Petersburg, in the *Hamburg News*, states that the number of officers who are brought before the courts-martial, and condemned to various punishments, is daily increasing. Some of the sentences are very severe. A Captain Martynov, of the 3rd Battalion of Orenburg, for instance, has been deprived of his nobility and rank in the army, and condemned to remain a simple soldier, for embezzlement of military funds. A similar sentence has been pronounced against Captain Hamassoff, of the staff, for insubordination when in a state of drunkenness. Detachments of troops are constantly leaving Poland for Bessarabia. A magnificent park of artillery, to be sent to Sebastopol, has been formed in Volhynia. Poland, according to this account, has very few troops now, as those which leave are not replaced by others.

MUTINY AT LIVERPOOL.—On Monday last, as the *Iron Duke* steamer was proceeding up the Mersey, she perceived a flag of distress flying from the American ship *Ocean Express*, and the signal that there was mutiny on board. This being communicated to the authorities, Superintendent Boyd, with a party of men, boarded the ship, which was lying off the Rock Light, outward bound, where they found all hands sitting in the fore-castle. Having ordered them on deck, the superintendent asked them individually if they would go on with their work? to which they replied they would not, saying they would neither work nor go with the ship. One and all said they had no fault to find with the captain or ship, but they complained that the mate compelled them to work from five in the morning until six in the evening of Sunday, and in the rain the whole of Monday. The ship was at the time in charge of a pilot, who, being questioned, stated that there was no unnecessary work demanded of the men, and nothing that was not requisite for the safety of the ship. Two of the ringleaders were arrested, and taken before the American Consul at Liverpool, who advised the captain to return on board, and ask the other men again to work, which he did, but they refused; and the whole of them, thirty in number, were landed and turned "adrift," forfeiting their clothes and outfits, the English authorities, owing to the vessel being under the American flag, not being at liberty to deal with the case.

THE SIEGE OF SEBASTOPOL.

The contemplated assault on Sebastopol, announced for certain a week ago, is now apparently as far off as ever. Letters to the 28th ult., and telegraphic despatches to the 7th inst., have been received, but none of them contain any definite information as to what is to be done, or any explanation as to the postponement of the assault. A telegraphic despatch from General Pelissier to the Minister of War, dated the 7th of August, eleven p.m., conveys the following negative items of information:—

I have nothing of interest to communicate to you. The enemy has not undertaken anything against our trenches. Some cases of cholera have re-appeared.

It must not be supposed, however, that the accounts received are at all discouraging. The check experienced by the Allied armies on the 18th of last month, instead of dispiriting, seems to have given them new strength and fresh energy. In spite of the furious firing of the Russians, the works are said to extend their grasping fingers in every direction—slowly, but irresistibly. They creep up the sides of the Malakoff and envelop the Redan more and more. Of course expectation is pitched to a high degree. Battery after battery is constructed, and trench after trench; so everybody is eagerly waiting for the decisive moment; but never, perhaps, was public rumour more at a loss for conjectures than in the present instance. Scarcely anybody ventures to give an opinion. There are only vague ideas among the Allied troops about another assault, about working their way by saps under an overpowering fire of artillery, and other such general assertions, which no one believes, however willing he may be to hope that they may prove true.

A letter from the Turkish camp above Kamara, dated July 28, says:—

The French Camp on the Tchernaya, as well as the Turkish and Piedmontese Contingents, has for the last few days been kept on the alert, owing to news brought by a Russian deserter. According to his account, the Russians intended to attack in great force the Tchernaya line, and had prepared thirty brigades of infantry and four of artillery. Their chief object, he pretended, was to break through the Turkish line. The consequence of this news, which came from French head-quarters, was that both the Piedmontese and Turkish troops passed a sleepless night. But the night of Wednesday, as well as the following ones, was passed without bringing the Russians. There was no more sense of them than usual, except yesterday, when a foraging party of theirs came down from the White, or Mackenzie, ridge, to the plain towards the bridge of Traktir, where the French have constructed a *tête-de-pont*. But they contended themselves with collecting the hay, and returned again to the heights. They were protected in this foraging expedition by the guns of the Russian batteries on the heights. When this Russian foraging party returned, the French cattle and sheep went over as usual to browse, and were again, as usual, welcomed by some shells from the batteries. This is all that has been seen of the Russians during the last few days. The Sardinians occupy Tchorgoun as usual; the French and English cavalry, and lately a Turkish detachment, the valley of Balidar; and nowhere have any traces of the enemy been discovered. Either the Russians have been kept back by the heavy rains which we have had for the last three days, or else, as is more probable, the threatened attack was only one of those stories with which deserters try to ingratiate themselves on their arrival. Every one of them is sure to come with some valuable information, and yet there is no army where the common run of deserters can have so little information as in the Russian army. Even officers know very little beyond what takes place in their regiments.

AMENDED RETURN OF OFFICERS WOUNDED ON THE MORNING OF 18TH OF JUNE.

7th Foot: Lieut. N. D. Robinson, slightly (inserted as missing an original return). 34th: Captains John Gwilt, severely; William Warry, slightly; Joseph Jordan, severely; Lieutenants G. B. Harman, severely; Francis Peel, slightly; R. J. B. Clayton, severely.

OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND PRIVATES KILLED AND WOUNDED FROM THE 23RD TO THE 26TH JULY, INCLUSIVE.

KILLED.
July 22.—17th Foot: Private John McCarthy. 46th: Private Joshua Carter.
July 24.—1st Battalion 1st Foot: Private Michael Neeson.
July 25.—34th Foot: Private John Huntington. 39th: Corporal William Roan. 77th: Privates Patrick Doyle, Patrick Bryan. 84th: Privates Alexander Gordon, Philip Gigan. 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade: Private Frederick Baker. Royal Artillery: Gunner Peter Malloy. Royal Sappers and Miners: Private John Miller.
July 26.—1st Battalion Scots Fusilier Guards: Private George Maxwell, Richard Taylor. 4th Foot: Private Emanuel Hutchins. 39th: Lance Corporal William Phillips. 42nd: Private John Muir. 47th: Private John Collins. 68th: Private John Wheeler. Royal Sappers and Miners: Private Alfred Rowlett.

WOUNDED.
July 23.—Coldstream Guards: Privates John Baldwin, John Brandon, severely; Charles Mountrey, dangerously; Edward Brewster, slightly. Scots Fusilier Guards: Privates William Payne, severely; William Brown, George Treacher, Samuel Simpson, slightly. 3rd Field: Sergeant Peter M. Hoad, dangerously. Private Martin M'Hugh, slightly. 4th: Lieut. James Paton, slightly. 14th: Private Michael Taylor, slightly. 17th: Privates John Nougher, dangerously; Michael M'Loughlin, slightly; John Black, severely. 41st: Drummer Michael Carberry, Privates Michael Ennis, slightly; Anthony Murray, severely. 42nd: Privates Alexander Milne, slightly; Donald Fraser, severely. 46th: Private Michael Roarion, severely. 54th: Privates John Reid, dangerously; Alfred Deasy, severely. 58th: Private Michael Kennedy, slightly. 72nd: Private Robert Patterson, slightly. 95th: Colour-Sergeant A. F. Cluney; Privates Andrew Fletcher, Eugene Sullivan, Isaac Langham, slightly.
July 24.—1st Battalion Coldstream Guards: Sergeant James Jinks, slightly. 1st Battalion 1st Foot: Privates John Connor, James Dicky, Jeremiah Leary, Henry Howell, slightly. 4th: Privates Francis O'Brien, dangerously; Alex. under Rankin, Michael Curley, Charles F. Brown, severely. 48th: Private William Smith, slightly. 49th: Privates James Halsey, dangerously; Michael Brogan, Edward Wickham, slightly. 55th: Private Thomas Clarke, slightly. 57th: Privates James Carson, John Mauley, severely; John Kelly, slightly. 62nd: Privates William Lee, Henry, slightly. 77th: Privates Michael Hanley, dangerously; John Hanley, slightly. 80th: Privates A. W. Rock, George White, severely; Samuel Smith, slightly. 95th: Sergeant Wm. Sparks, Privates Patrick McCarthy, slightly; John Braden, Alexander Baxter, severely. 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade: Privates Samuel Perry, severely; Wm. Jennings, John Long, Wm. Bennett, Wm. Walton, James Campbell, John Grey, slightly.
July 25.—1st Battalion 1st Foot: Privates James Pether, slightly; Alexander Perry, severely. Private James Holbrook, slightly. 30th: Private James Cowley, severely. 33rd: Private Thomas Flattery, severely. 48th: Privates George Bishery, James Haddon, slightly. 57th: Private John Thompson, severely. 77th: Privates Michael Farrell, slightly; Michael Joyce, severely. 90th: Private Hugh Marshall, severely. 97th: Private George Graham, slightly. 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade: Sergeant Thomas Farr, slightly; Privates Moses Payne, Chapman, severely; Wm. H. Richards, slightly. Royal Artillery: Gunner John Brewer, severely.
July 26.—2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards: Private George Spencer, severely. 1st Battalion Scots Fusilier Guards: Privates Samuel Tipping, Alexander Short, John Sturgeon, slightly; Peter Jones, dangerously; James Taylor, 2nd Battalion 1st Foot: Privates Peter Farrell, John Katterna, Richard Dickens, slightly. 4th: Corporal William Warren, Privates John McGuire, Edward Mason, Samuel Rodway, Robert Galloway, severely. 17th: Private Richard Hogan, slightly. 18th: Private Charles Fry, slightly. 31st: Privates John Clay, dangerously; John Brickston, John Wardle, severely; Thomas Hammond, Michael M'Baron, Hugh Kewin, Owen Cremon, James Mahern, Thomas Boyle, slightly. 38th: Private William Wright, slightly. 39th: Privates James Cane, John M'Ewen, Patrick Kirlachay, slightly. 42nd: Lance Corporal John Billock, severely; Private Angus M'Leod, slightly. 47th: Privates Michael McDonald, slightly; William Stokes, severely. 49th: Privates Charles Chas, John Greenan, dangerously; William Ford, severely; Emanuel Mapley, slightly. 50th: Privates Patrick Connors, John Lawler, severely; Thomas O'Leary, slightly. 54th: Privates Denis Broderick, Charles Crowther, William Reevy, slightly. 68th: Private Joseph Brown, severely. 72nd: Privates Andrew Clarke, Maitland Dunchie, slightly. 79th: Privates David M'Gregor, severely; William Mitchell, slightly. 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade: Privates Henry Burrow, John Musgrave, slightly. Royal Sappers and Miners: Lance-Corporal Richard Finch, slightly.

A SUCCESSFUL RAZZIA.

A letter in the *Presse d'Orient*, a Constantinople paper, of the 30th ult., gives an interesting account of what is going on at Kertch and its neighbourhood. The writer, after stating that good accounts had been received from the different positions along that coast, gives the following description of a successful razzia in the Crimea by a small body of French troops:—

The fortifications of Fort St. Paul, called in Russia Pavlofskaia, situated a short distance from Kertch, below Cape Ak-Bouroun, are terminated. We have there a small garrison, which made a few days ago a successful and profitable excursion. On the 18th two companies left for the interior. They followed at first the Kamiesch-Bournou road to the ruins of an old hospital. They thence marched along the high ground, on the right, to a village of about ninety houses, called Schorubatch, at a short distance from which were the advanced post of a regiment of Cossacks, quartered at Sultanovka. From Schorubatch our troops proceeded across the plateau of Koyach, and passed through a country intersected with ravines, from which issue several small streams, uniting at some distance to empty into a fine lake, close to the sea. They there found the village of Kop-Sarai-Min, composed of about twenty-five dwellings, seated in a rather fertile country. Numerous droves of bullocks, grazing in the adjoining fields, were surrounded by our men; and the Tartars, having been put into requisition, made no objection to accompany our soldiers, and drove before them 600 head of horned cattle. All this occurred under the eyes of a squadron of Cossacks, who followed the column for a considerable distance. It is an extraordinary fact, that two companies of infantry should thus penetrate six leagues into the country, and execute, within a league of the Russian cantonments, so complete a razzia. We learned from the inhabitants of Schorubatch and Kop-Sarai-Min that they intended to bring their cattle to the market at Kertch, but that the Russians had forced them to collect them on one point, threatening to destroy their villages if they held any communication with the Allied armies. They were delighted with our visit, which enabled them to dispose of their cattle without incurring the displeasure of the Russians. Our Commissariat bought 400 oxen only. We did not wish to deprive those poor people, who are anything but hostile to us, of their most valuable resources. The cows were returned to them, not, however, without having been milked by our soldiers.

THE WAR IN ASIA.

Letters from Kars of the 14th ult. contradict the report of the expedition of Schamyl against Tiflis. Between the 7th and 14th ult. frequent engagements took place between the advanced Russian posts and the Turks near Kars. On the 10th the enemy made a strong reconnaissance, and an unsuccessful attack against Karadagh. On the 11th the Russians executed an equally unsuccessful reconnaissance upon Tchakmak. On the 12th they proceeded in the direction of Erzeroum, leaving but an advanced guard within view of Kars. On the 13th the Russians approached the city with all their forces, divided into three columns, one of which formed the reserve. After endeavouring in vain to draw the Ottoman troops out of their intrenchments, by keeping constantly out of range of their guns, they returned in the evening to their camp. "Such," says the *Presse d'Orient*, "is the summary of our correspondence from the seat of war in Asia. It corrects the inaccurate accounts brought by the last letters from Trebizond."

POLAND AND A POLISH LEGION.

A public meeting (postponed from Wednesday, August 1) was held on Wednesday night, at St. Martin's-hall, in favour of the employment of a Polish Legion as the most effectual auxiliary for carrying on the war, and the restoration of Poland as the best means of securing a durable peace. The meeting, which was said to have been packed by Chartists, and which was certainly of a somewhat noisy character, was presided over by the Earl of Harrington. Among the gentlemen on the platform were—Sir R. Peel, M.P.; Captain Townshend, R.N., M.P.; Messrs. Isaac Butt, M.P.; Francis Mowatt, M.P.; W. Tite, M.P.; Colonel Salwey, General Count Zamoyski, Mr. N. F. Zaba, and Lieutenant-Colonel Szulcowski, Secretary of the Association of the Friends of Poland, &c.

The Earl of Harrington said that when Russia extended her territory to Constantinople the empire of India would be within her grasp, that the balance of power in Europe would not be safe, and that she would possess sole dominion in the Mediterranean. The safest barrier against any such consequences would be the re-establishment of the kingdom of Poland.

Lord Ebrington, whose appearance was the signal for great uproar, then moved the following resolution:—

That it will afford the best security for the preservation of the balance of power in Europe, and the protection of its liberties, that Poland should be restored as a separate and independent State—a measure the necessity of which has been recognised by most of the great Conservative statesmen of Europe.

He thought that on grounds of European, of English policy, and for our own interest, we ought to establish a Polish Legion, and to entertain, not as a mere chimera, the idea of the restoration of Poland; and, looking to this subject in all its bearings, he felt, and wished to cause the meeting to feel, that the cause which they had met that evening to advocate was one which was supported both by justice and expediency (Applause).

Sir R. Peel, in seconding the resolution, said he believed that the best bulwark of European liberty would be the restoration of Poland; and he deeply lamented that Europe had been hitherto so careless as to view almost without remark the iniquitous act of her absorption in 1772. With regard to Austria, its alliance had been too much courted, for the experience of history proved that it was impossible to place confidence in the pacific declarations of Austria or of Prussia (Applause). It was, therefore, necessary for this country to keep its own course; not truckling to Austria nor toadying to the degraded policy of Prussia.

Mr. Dobson Collett, amid much uproar and confusion, moved the following amendment to the resolution:—

That this meeting, cordially desiring the restoration of Polish nationality, cannot forget that the destruction of that nationality was mainly owing to the perfidious conduct of Lord Palmerston from 1831 to 1846. That so long as Lord Palmerston is a servant of the Crown no proposition for the restoration of Poland can be anything but a delusion and a snare. That the truth of this resolution is proved by the fact that Lord Palmerston has carried on the war in such a manner as to avoid, as far as possible, injuring Russia, while he has proposed terms of peace which would entirely destroy the independence of Turkey.

After a great deal of confusion and uproar, Mr. Collett's resolution was put to the meeting; and, on a show of hands, declared to be carried, with only six dissentient voices.

LAUNCH OF THE "MARLBOROUGH."

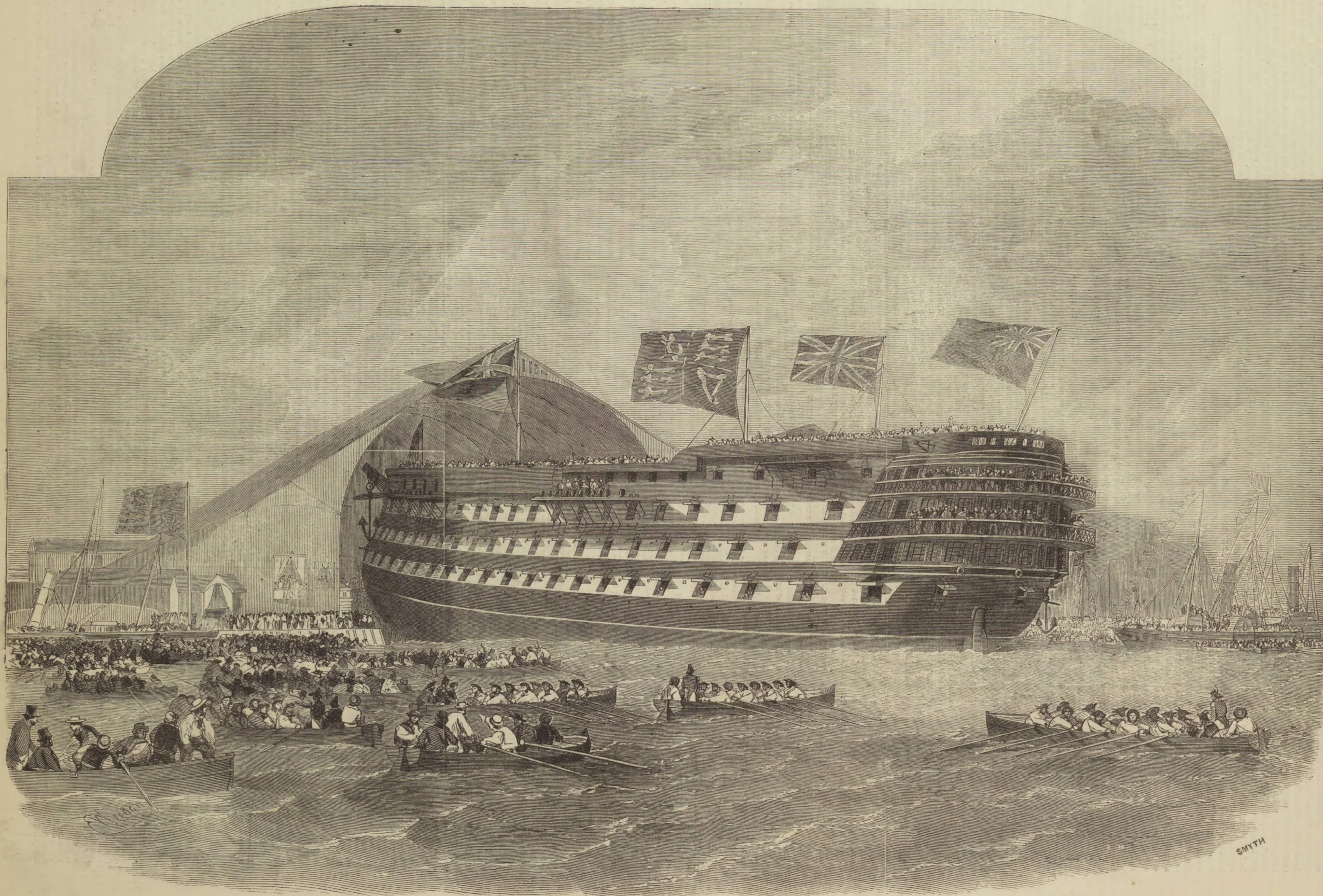
HER MAJESTY honoured her faithful lieges of Portsmouth with a visit on Tuesday week, for the purpose of presiding over the launch of the leviathan three-decker the *Marlborough*. Unfortunately, her Majesty's proverbial good fortune with respect to the weather seemed to have deserted her; and the day was, in other and more important respects, signalised by an unfortunate *contretemps*. The early portion of the day was most ominously marked with squalls and showers of rain. The arrangements for the launch were upon an extensive scale. The space around the ship was partitioned off into stalls for the members of the Government and the officials, and standing-places were made in contiguity for the accommodation of thousands of other visitors. Excursion trains and steam-boats from various directions conveyed thousands of sight-seekers; added to which the port and neighbourhood were unusually well filled, owing to their contiguity to the races at Goodwood. All the hotels were occupied, and private lodgings were eagerly inquired for as each train arrived, and the influx bade fair to outrun the unprecedented invasion on the review of the fleet at Spithead two years ago. Some of the Lords of the Admiralty arrived the previous night at the George Hotel, and a great number of the nobility had domiciled themselves at other lodgings, Ryde especially. A very handsome pavilion booth was erected for the Court at the port side of the stern of the ship, and a quiet and easily-accessible landing-place in connection with it, for the debarkation of the Royal cortege, consisting of a covered way, lined with the French, British, and Turkish ensigns, and leading by a flight of capacious steps to the apartments and balconies above, underneath which were affixed the Royal arms. A clear walk thence alongside the ship to the platform at the bows had been preserved, so that her Majesty could walk uninterruptedly from one to the other place of observation. Gay flags and pennants, intertwined with the barriers and pillars of the slip, and the compartments allotted to the various official bodies and personages, gave a pleasing and lively effect to the arrangements. The guard of honour was furnished by the 80th Regiment, and the ground and approaches were kept by a detachment of the same corps and 200 men of the Royal Dockyard Brigade.

Shortly before noon her Majesty, accompanied by the Prince Consort and the eldest of the Royal children, arrived in the *Fairy*. On passing, the Royal yacht was received with the usual honours and salutes by the ships in the offing and the harbour, and her Majesty on landing was greeted with the most enthusiastic cheers from the assembled thousands who crowded every available spot. Her Majesty, having been received by the authorities, was conducted to her temporary apartments; and the usual ceremonial observances having been duly performed, her Majesty christened the noble vessel. The launch at first proceeded most satisfactorily, but at last the ship came to a dead stop, leaving about twenty-five yards still on the slip. The most strenuous efforts were made to get the vessel off the slips—several powerful steam-tugs were pressed into the service to assist the operation; but the launch was not effected till the next morning.

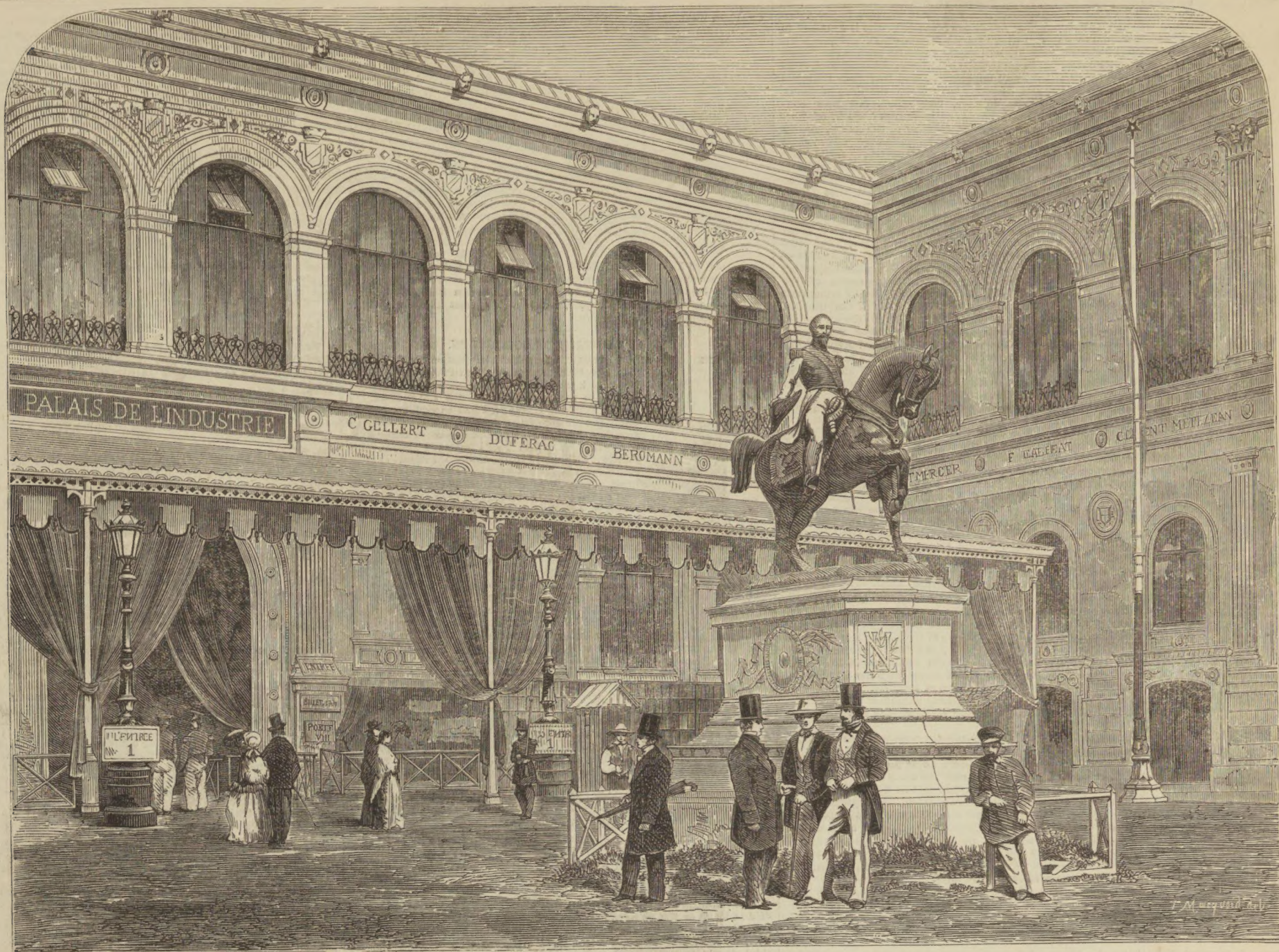
The *Marlborough* is perfection, whether as regards her beauty of mould, or her immense strength, equal to two three-deckers of the olden time. Her lower deck guns will be 68-pounders; her middle deck, long 32's; her main deck, long shorts; and her upper or quarterdeck and fore-castle armament will be carronades of immense calibre. Every improvement of the present age has been carried out in this noble line-of-battle ship. We subjoin the official weights and sizes of this colossal vessel:—Length, 245 feet 6 inches; over all, 283 feet; breadth, 61 feet 2½ inches; depth in hold, 25 feet 10 inches. Burden in tons, 4000. Load draught of water—forward, 25 feet; aft, 26 feet. Height of taffrail above load-water line, 39 feet 10 inches; height of main-truck above load-water line, 213 feet 4 inches; weight of mainmast, 23 tons; weight of mainyard, 6 tons; length of mainyard, 111 feet; weight of anchors, 23 tons; weight of rigging, 93 tons; weight of sails (area 38,974 square feet), 15 tons; weight of guns and carriages, 369 tons; weight of shot, 170 tons; weight of powder, 64 tons; weight of machinery, consisting of two direct acting engines, six boilers, and machinery, 600 tons; weight of water in boilers, 100 tons; power of engines and boilers, 800 horses.

Our Engraving represents the *Marlborough* immediately after she had ceased launching, and this position she maintained till released on Wednesday morning.

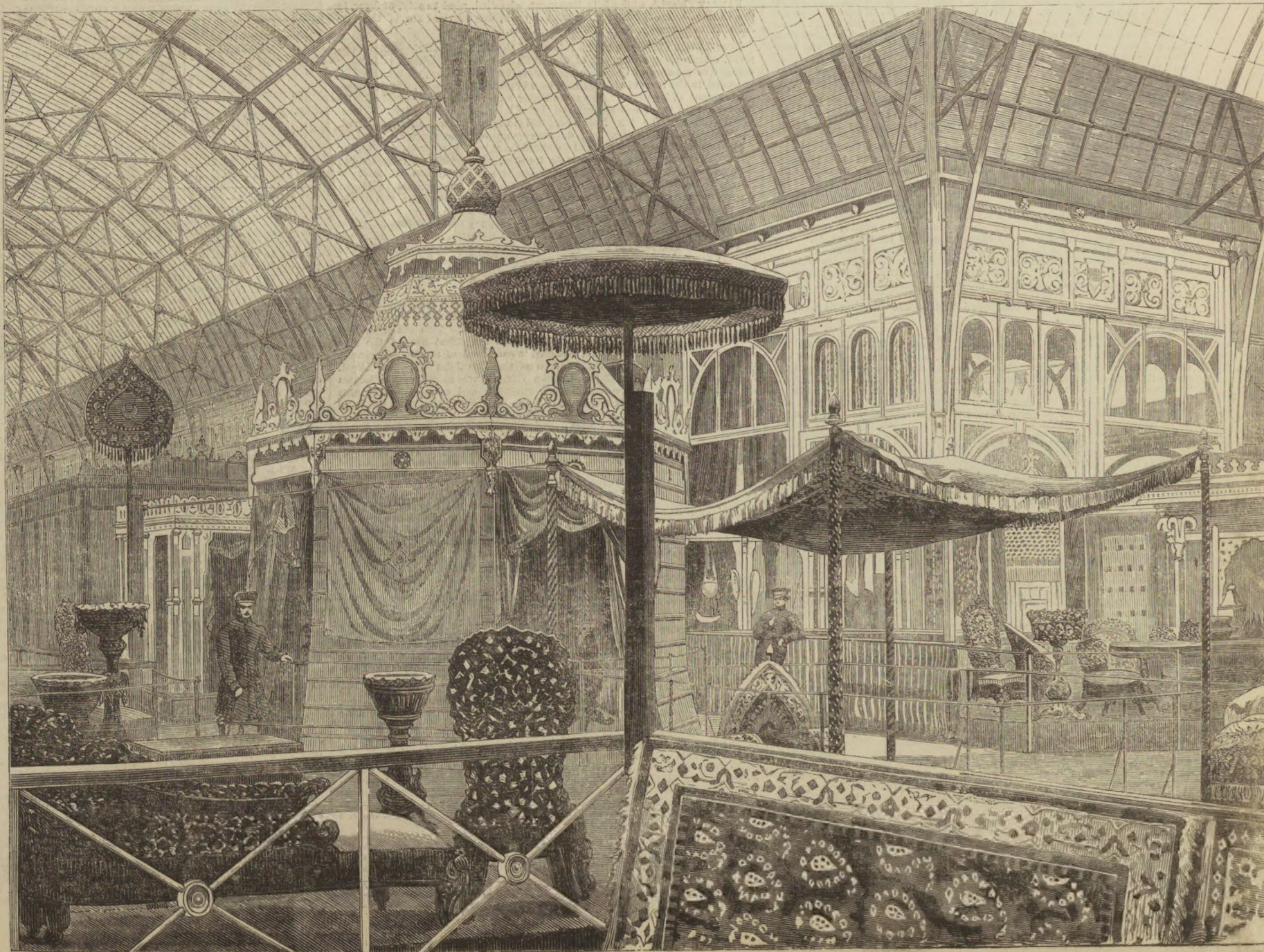
The launch has been commemorated by Mr. T. R. Williams, of Regent-street, who has taken, by command of the Queen, some stereoscopic photographs of the event, which are very successful. The operation must have been momentary, as the surf heading the waves, the water thrown from the paddle-wheels of the steamers, the rowers in the small boats about the monster ship, the puffs of steam from the tugs, the flags agitated by a stiff breeze, and even the smoke from the guns, are all wonderfully sharp in outline and detail.



"THE MARLBOROUGH," IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LAUNCH, AT PORTSMOUTH.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



THE PALAIS OF INDUSTRY AT PARIS.—EASTERN ENTRANCE, AND STATUE OF THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH



THE PALACE OF INDUSTRY AT PARIS.—THE INDIAN COURT.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

THE Exhibition must now be regarded as a great success: it has triumphed over all the obstacles that beset it at the commencement. That these obstacles have been overcome is due in great measure to the determined will and untiring energy of Prince Napoleon, who is constant in his attendance. Any one who witnessed the inauguration, and sees what the Palais de l'Industrie now is, will easily forget or pardon the failure which marked its outset. The Imperial Commission set energetically to work, and it is now admitted by all impartial persons that their success is complete, and that order and harmony have taken the place of chaos. Two "annexes" have been, as it were, improvised—one now containing the most beautiful specimens of goldsmiths' work, of porcelain, of the rarest and more precious tapestry; the other, nearly half a league in length, comprises all the machinery of modern invention, and other prodigies of art and industry. Amid this panorama of treasures—tapestry which imitates the most delicate touches of the pencil, and in which the flesh tints seem as if laid on by Titian himself—silks which display all that Lyons can send forth—stuffs of rich dye and exquisite workmanship—laces which the gentle breath of an infant might flutter—amid all this, not the least remarkable are the objects sent over by the East India Company. Side by side with articles of furniture, richly and fantastically carved, you see a complete model of the Court of Justice of Masulipatam—the judges seated on the benches, and the counsel pleading before them. Judging from these specimens, the museum of the Company must be rich indeed in such curiosities—the gifts of tributaries or the spoils of the vanquished. Here we see the arms of the warrior, the gorgeous stuffs of silk and gold, the transparent tissues which covered, but scarcely concealed, the limbs of the Bayaderes, the pipe of the Rajah, the tent under which the voluptuous Princes of Nepal may have reposed, the carved benches, inlaid tables, the coffers incrustated all over with ivory, and which may have held the ransom of an Emperor, the soft and yielding divans, and couches of the deepest ebony, worked in garlands of foliage, fruits, and flowers.

We have engraved upon the preceding page the Indian Court, wherein these marvels of splendour and ingenuity are assembled.

Above it is also engraved the eastern entrance to the Palace; facing which is the new equestrian statue of the Emperor of the French, upon a pedestal sculptured with martial trophies. Both illustrations have been engraved from well-executed photographs.

Prince Napoleon, on Saturday, paid his third visit of examination to the Exhibition—the department of Agriculture and Vegetable and Animal Productions being the part to which his attention was especially directed. The Prince was accompanied by M. Le Play, the Commissioner-General; Count de Gasparin, the President of the Classes; and several of the Foreign Commissioners. His Imperial Highness examined in detail the model of the system of drainage exhibited in the Agricultural Gallery, and also the productions from the rice-fields of the Camargue, the wonderful fertility of which particularly struck him. The different agricultural machines, both of France and other countries, were closely examined. The agricultural produce of Algeria particularly attracted the attention of the Prince, who expressed his admiration at what he saw. The rich collection of agricultural productions of the United Kingdom also attracted the marked attention of the Prince, as did also the specimens of corn sent from Austria, particularly those from Bohemia. A fine collection of Bohemian wool in fleeces also called forth his warm admiration. The productions of the character named above of Belgium, Spain, Canada, the United States, and Egypt, were also closely examined by the Prince, who expressed his great satisfaction to the Commissioners of the different countries.

It should be remembered that but three months remain before the Exhibition will be closed, and those who still delay visiting it will do well to profit by the present occasion to witness those noble productions collected together on the same point, and united under the same roof. The latter half of the present month will unquestionably be the most brilliant, and undoubtedly the most prosperous for the Exhibition. That Paris will be thronged with strangers from abroad and from the provinces at home, to witness the fêtes on the occasion of her Majesty's visit, such as it seldom has been, is certain. Those who find no pleasure in pageants and external displays will find refuge and shelter and varied enjoyment, without fatigue or din, under the roof of the Great Exhibition, or in the still calmer retreats of the Palace of the Beaux Arts.

THE COURT.

His Majesty the King of Portugal, with his brother the Duke of Oporto, arrived at Southampton on Monday morning, from Ostend. His Royal Highness Prince Albert left Osborne at ten o'clock for Southampton, to visit the King. His Majesty and the Duke of Oporto returned to the Solent with the Prince, and proceeded on board the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, where her Majesty shortly arrived. The illustrious visitors remained on board the Royal yacht in consequence of the scarlatina having lately prevailed among the Royal children. Her Majesty and the Prince remained on board to luncheon; and Prince Albert returned to dine with the King at eight o'clock. The birthday of his Royal Highness Prince Alfred occurred on Monday.

On Tuesday morning the Queen and the Prince again went on board the *Victoria and Albert*, to breakfast with the King of Portugal. The unfavourable state of the weather prevented her Majesty from dining with the King in the evening.

On Wednesday the Royal children who had suffered from scarlatina having perfectly recovered, the King of Portugal and the Duke of Oporto landed at Cowes and proceeded to Osborne on a visit to her Majesty.

On Thursday the Queen and the Prince Consort left Osborne at an early hour, crossed to Portsmouth, and travelled by the South Coast and the South-Eastern Railways to Folkestone, from whence the illustrious party proceeded in the Queen's carriages to Shorncliffe, where her Majesty reviewed the Foreign Legion encamped at that place. Her Majesty returned by the same route to Osborne in the evening.

The Queen visited Haslar Hospital on Saturday. The Prince went to the Camp at Aldershot in the morning, and, returning to Southampton, was met by her Majesty, whom his Royal Highness accompanied in her visit to Haslar.

The Countess of Desart has succeeded Viscountess Canning as Lady in Waiting.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, who has been residing at Frogmore-lodge since the 18th ult., is in the enjoyment of excellent health. The infant Prince Leopold is staying at Frogmore, under the care of her Royal Highness, for the benefit of his health. On Wednesday her Royal Highness and the infant Prince left Frogmore for the Isle of Wight. The Duchess will remain at Osborne until the departure of the Court to Paris, when her Royal Highness will proceed to Balmoral.

His Royal Highness the Hereditary Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, at the close of his visit to the Duke and Duchess of Richmond at Goodwood last week, left for the Continent on his way to Strelitz. The Grand Duchess will remain some weeks longer on a visit to the Duchess of Cambridge.

Viscountess Palmerston has left town for St. Leonards-on-Sea. Her Majesty has sat three times to Mr. Joseph Durham, the sculptor, for a new bust, of which three copies are to be in marble; one for the Council-Chamber, Guildhall, one for Joseph Arden, Esq., and the third for the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.—On Wednesday a meeting of the Administrative Reform Association was held at the London Tavern, for the purpose of receiving a report from the committee. The attendance was not very numerous, hardly exceeding 100 in number. The chair was taken at one o'clock by Mr. S. Morley; and there were present, among others, Mr. Tite, M.P., Mr. H. Brown, M.P., Mr. W. S. Lindsay, M.P., Mr. Miall, M.P., Messrs. Jacob Bell, R. W. Crawford, J. Travers, &c. A long report was read by Mr. Brown, in which the committee gave an outline of their proceedings since the organisation of the association. The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said, in his opinion they ought to go at once for Parliamentary Reform, if they wished to obtain Administrative Reform, as he considered the present House of Commons utterly hopeless in that respect. Some discussion took place regarding the adoption of the report. Lieutenant-Colonel Sleight, of the *Telegraph* newspaper, complained of its vagueness, and expressed a want of confidence in the committee. Mr. George Thompson, editor of the *Empire*, expressed his conviction that there was a division of sentiment in the committee, and, although he gave that body credit for industry, yet he considered it was absolutely necessary to have unanimity of opinion not only as to the evils which existed, but also as to the remedy to be applied, and that remedy he believed to be nothing else than complete Parliamentary Reform. The chairman remarked that there might be difference of opinion among the committee upon political matters generally, but upon the question of Administrative Reform they were completely united. The motion for the reception of the report was then put and carried unanimously, and, after passing a vote of thanks to the chairman, the meeting broke up.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

THE EARL OF SEFTON.

CHARLES WILLIAM MOLYNEUX, third Earl of Sefton, and Viscount Molyneux, in the Peerage of Ireland, and Baron Sefton in that of England, was the eldest son of William Philip, second Earl of Sefton, by his wife, Maria, second daughter of William, sixth Lord Craven, and was born the 10th July, 1796; and married, the 19th June, 1834, Mary Augusta, only daughter of the late Robert George Hopwood, Esq., of Hopwood-hall, Lancashire, and niece of the late Viscount Torrington, by whom his Lordship leaves a youthful family. The Earl was a Whig in politics; he was M.P. for South Lancashire from 1832 to 1835. He was also Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire. He died, after a protracted and painful illness, at the family mansion in Belgrave-square, on the 2nd inst. He is succeeded in the family honours and estates by his eldest son, William Philip, now fourth Earl, who is in his twentieth year, and is a Lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards.

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THE CHEVALIER DE COLQUHOUN.

JAMES, CHEVALIER DE COLQUHOUN, whose death has just occurred, was the only son of Dr. Patrick, late Lord Provost of Glasgow. Dr. Patrick was one of the first authors who applied himself to the development of the statistics of the British empire. He founded and carried out gratuitously the present system of Thames Police; and suggested, in his work on the Metropolitan Police, the adoption of Sir Robert Peel's improved system. Dr. Patrick, with his son James—the subject of this notice—was one of the founders of the present Savings Bank. James, the future Chevalier de Colquhoun, was born on the 7th June, 1780, at his father's seat, Kelvin-grove, in Lanarkshire; and was entered a student of St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1797. In 1806 he became private secretary to Mr. Dundas, then Secretary of State for the War Department; three years later he received the appointment of Deputy Agent-General for the payment of Volunteers. In 1817 the Hanseatic Republic constituted him their representative in London; and the Legislatures of St. Vincent, and other West India Islands, at different times nominated him to watch over their interests. In 1827 he was appointed Consul-General in London of his Saxon Majesty, and had the charge of that Sovereign's Legation during frequent and long periods. In 1848 the late Grand Duke of Oldenburg appointed him his *Chargé d'Affaires* in London, and he had conferred upon him the Knighthood Commandery and Star of a Commander of the first class of the Royal Saxon Orders of Civil Merit; and thus became Chevalier de Colquhoun. He had many other Continental honours, and was a Fellow of the University of Glasgow. As Hanseatic Plenipotentiary, which he was, the Chevalier de Colquhoun signed commercial treaties with Great Britain, the Ottoman Porte, Mexico, and Liberia, and negotiated several others; he also signed a treaty as Saxon Plenipotentiary with Mexico. The Chevalier leaves a family of three sons and two daughters; the eldest of the sons, Dr. Patrick de Colquhoun, the author of an extensive work on Roman Civil Law, has also acted in his father's avocations, and signed, as Hanseatic Plenipotentiary at Constantinople and Athens, commercial treaties with the Sublime Porte and Greece.

WAR OBITUARY.

(Continued from page 115.)

BOILEAU (Lieutenant Charles Augustus Penryn), of the Rifle Brigade, who died at Malta on the 1st inst., of wounds received on the 18th of June, at the storming of the Redan, was the fourth son of the present Sir John Peter Boileau, of Jacobstone Hall, Norfolk, by his wife, the Lady Catherine Sarah, third daughter of Gilbert, first Earl of Minto. Lieut. Boileau was, at his death, but nineteen years of age.

RAMSAY (Lieut.), of the 34th Regiment, who died, aged twenty, of fever, in the Crimea, before Sebastopol, on the 22nd ult., was the third son of the late John Turner Ramsay, Esq., of Tismore, Oxon.

ROSS-LEWIS (Lieutenant John Dillon), of the 30th or Cambridgeshire Regiment, commanding a company at the battle of Inkerman, where, after being engaged in a series of desperate encounters for seven hours, he fell mortally wounded in the hour of victory, and, as a brother officer writes, "in the noble performance of his duty." The same writer adds: "His loss is deeply felt by his regiment, for he was beloved by all ranks." He survived until the morning of the 7th November, and to the last was calm, collected, and resigned. He was, indeed, *sans peur et sans reproche*. "Late that evening," writes a kind comrade, "we, his sorrowing brother officers, laid him beside poor Captain Conolly, whose loss we have also to deplore." Lieut. Ross-Lewis was the youngest son of the late Major Ross-Lewis, of Ross-hill, co. Clare, an officer who himself was present at eleven general actions and sieges, and received a musket-ball through the arm at the last charge at Salamanca. His uncle, Thomas Ross-Lewis (who was, during the Duke of Wellington's campaigns, a light-company officer of the 32nd), has a medal with eight clasps, and was wounded at Sarozzin, in Spain, and again at Waterloo; and Edward Ross-Lewis (Adjutant of the 9th) was killed at the siege of St. Sebastian. Lieut. Ross-Lewis's grandfather was also in the Army, being an officer of the 14th Dragoons; his great-grandfather was Harrison Ross-Lewis, Esq., of Fort Fergus, co. Clare.

VAUGHAN (Captain John Crosby), of the 38th Regiment, died, aged twenty-five, on the 16th of June, of wounds received the previous night, while posting his sentries in the advanced trenches before Sebastopol. This officer entered the Army the 22nd December, 1848. He was the eldest son of the late Lieut.-Colonel Edward Vaughan, who died in command of the 98th Regiment, at the Cape of Good Hope, and grandson of the late John Vaughan Lloyd, Esq., of Brynogh, Cardiganshire. Captain Vaughan was in private life known and esteemed for many good and noble qualities, and as a soldier he was earnest and strict in the performance of his professional duties. His loss is to be deeply lamented.

WILLS.—The will of the Right Hon. and Right Rev. Charles Lindsay, the former Bishop of Kildare, and that of the Venerable Charles Lindsay, M.A., the late Archdeacon of Kildare, have both been recently proved in London; they having respectively left personality within the province of Canterbury. Major William Pitt-Campbell, Deputy-Assistant-Quarter-master, 23rd Regiment, at Scutari, £7000; and the wills of Captain G. F. Dawson, Royal Engineers; and Lieutenant Henry Tryon, 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, both of Sebastopol. Francis Valentine, Esq., late of Mark-lane, £70,000. Rev. John Bouverie, M.A., Prebend of Lincoln, Rector of Woolbeding and St. Mary Tydd, £16,000.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

APPOINTMENTS.—*Rectories*: The Rev. H. Mackenzie to Tydd St. Henry; Rev. H. Hinds to Drayton, Norfolk; Rev. C. J. Forshaw to Cychet Malherby, near Ilminster; Rev. C. M. Moore to Beachamwell St. Mary, with Beachamwell St. John annexed; Rev. J. Robinson to Bowness, near Carlisle; Rev. H. Bagnall to Goldborough, Yorkshire; Rev. G. H. Fell to Horsington, in the county of Lincoln; Rev. R. Kelvert to Langley Burrell, near Chippenham; Rev. A. Williams to Up-Cerne, Dorset. *Vicarages*: The Rev. T. Hughes to Llandrillo-yn-Rhos, near Conway; Rev. C. Thorp to Ellingham; Rev. W. G. Humphry to St. Martin-in-the-Fields; Rev. H. Newland, to St. Mary Church, Devonshire; Rev. O. Jones to Ishmael's, near Carmarthen; Rev. H. Menniken to Northleach. *Incumbencies*: The Rev. C. Lowndes to Berthwaite, near Windermere; Rev. J. Kingsley to St. Margaret's, Dunham Massey; Rev. J. G. Hollingworth to Coppull, near Wigan; Rev. J. B. Norman to Gungdale, near Carlisle; Rev. J. Richardson, to Old Hutton, near Kendal; Rev. J. Gibson to Blanchland, near Gateshead; Rev. C. A. Perring to St. James's Church, Whitehaven; Rev. C. J. S. Russell to St. John's District Church, Walthamstow.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Glasgow, and about forty of the clergy, attended a public reopening of the Tunbridge Wells School on Friday (last week). His Grace, as Visitor of the institution, having appointed the Rev. H. Williams to be the new head master, made a most appropriate and impressive address to the boys.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

(Continued from page 183.)

HOUSE OF LORDS.—THURSDAY.

The Public-houses (Ireland) Repeal Bill; the Public Health Act (1854) Continuance and Amendment Bill; the Diseases Prevention Bill; and the Militia Pay Bill, were severally read a second time.

The following Bills were read a third time and passed—viz., The Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Acts Consolidation and Amendment Bill; the Sale of Beer, &c. Bill; the Militia Ballots Suspensions Bill; the Metropolitan Buildings Bill; the Customs Laws Consolidation Bill; the Passengers' Act Amendment Bill; the Island of Tobago Loan Bill; and the Ordnance Board Bill.

LIMITED LIABILITY BILL.

On the order of the day for going into Committee upon this bill, Lord Redesdale, Lord St. Leonards, and Earl Grey severally urged the Government not to press the measure in the present Session.

Earl GRANVILLE having said it was the determination of the Government to persevere,

Lord ST. LEONARDS, in a speech of some length, stated his objections to many of the details of the measure. He said he was in favour of the principle, but considered the means proposed to carry it out most hazardous in reference to the interests of the public and the fair trader. As the bill now stood there was no security as far as regarded capital required from any company; so that, in fact, a number of head servants might join together with only a capital of £200 or £300, and set up a bakery, or any other business, to the ruin of the regular tradesmen of the neighbourhood. He would propose a provision whereby a capital of £10,000, as originally in the bill, should be inserted.

Lord CAMPBELL thought it would be wise of the Government to refer this bill to a Select Committee.

Earl GREY moved that the bill be referred to a Select Committee.

After considerable discussion the House divided, when there appeared—For Earl Grey's amendment, 11; against, 28: majority for the Government, 17.

Their Lordships then went into Committee. Lord ST. LEONARDS then moved that the House resume.

After some conversation the amendment was withdrawn. The consideration of the clauses occupied their Lordships' attention until after midnight.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—THURSDAY.

The House met at twelve o'clock. The Charitable Trusts Bill; the Union of Contiguous Benefices Bill; the Crime and Outrage (Ireland) Act Continuance Bill; and the School Grants, Security for Application Bill, were severally read a third time and passed. After a lengthened discussion upon the Leases and Sales of Settled Estates Bill in Committee the Government withdrew the measure.

NEW WRITS.

On the motion of Mr. HAYTER, the following new writs were ordered:—For Hertford, in the room of the Hon. W. F. Cowper, who has accepted the office of President of the Board of Health. For Kilmarnock Burghs, in the room of the Hon. E. P. Bouverie, who has accepted the office of President of the Poor-law Board. For Kidderminster, in the room of Robert Lowe, Esq., who has accepted the office of Vice-President of the Board of Trade.

At the evening sitting Sir G. GREY, in reply to Mr. Kinnaid, said that an Address had been sent to her Majesty from the Upper House of Convocation praying for the revival of the active powers of Convocation; but her Majesty had been advised not to accede to the prayer of the Address.

CONVEYANCE OF NEWSPAPERS ABROAD.

Mr. WILSON, in reply to questions from Mr. Thorneley and Mr. Bramley Moore, in reference to the conveyance of newspapers to the Colonies, stated that the late Postmaster-General (Lord Canning) had addressed a letter to the Treasury, pointing out the inconvenience of the existing system; and that the Treasury had passed a minute by which the objections would be removed. By this minute all newspapers henceforward would be conveyed abroad, whether to the Colonies or elsewhere, without having the impressed stamp upon them; but the ordinary adhesive stamp would be sufficient.

The Lords' amendments to the Metropolis Local Management Bill were considered: some of them were agreed to, but others were objected to.

Capt. SCOBELL moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the government of the Navy, relating to the lists of officers, patronage, promotion, and the efficiency of the service in all the grades belonging to it.

Sir C. WOOD opposed the motion, and entered into a long explanation on the subject.

The House was counted out.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, AUGUST 9.

Month and Day.	Corrected Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer. Highest Reading.	Thermometer. Lowest Reading.	Mean Temperature of the Day.	Departure of Temperature from Average.	Degree of Humidity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain in Inches.
Aug. 3	29.753	72.7	53.1	62.1	0.0	87	S.W.	0.04
" 4	29.664	71.7	53.5	61.1	— 1.0	91	W.S.W.	0.00
" 5	29.923	71.2	54.6	61.0	— 1.1	79	N.W.	0.00
" 6	30.045	71.9	46.3	57.9	— 4.1	90	S.W.	0.16
" 7	29.733	74.0	55.7	63.9	+ 1.9	87	S.W.	0.23
" 8	29.623	70.9	55.0	60.7	— 1.2	93	S.W. & W.	0.22
" 9	29.818	67.0	55.3	59.5	— 2.3	91	N.W. & W.	0.00

Note.—The sign — denotes below the average and the sign + above the average. The numbers in the seventh column are calculated on the supposition that the saturation of the air is represented by 100.

The reading of the barometer decreased from 29.75 in. at the beginning of the month to 29.66 in. on the 4th; increased to 30.05 by the 6th, decreased to 29.62 in. by the 8th; and increased to 29.84 in. by the end of the week. The mean for the week, at the height of 82 feet above the level of the sea, was 29.80 in.

The mean temperature of the week was 60.9°, being 1.1° below the average.

The range of temperature during the week was 27.7°, being the difference between the lowest reading of the thermometer on the 6th, viz., 46.3°; and the highest on the 7th, viz., 74.0°.

The mean daily range of temperature during the week was 18°. The greatest was 25.3°, on the 6th; and the least, 11.3°, on the 9th.

Rain fell during the week to the depth of rather more than six-tenths of an inch.

The Weather during the week was dull and gloomy, and the sky almost completely overcast. At 5h. 45m. p.m. on the 8th, a thunder storm occurred; but no damage was done.

Lewisham, Aug 10, 1855.

JAMES GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—The births of 1678 children were registered within the week ending Aug. 4: 880 were boys, and 798 girls. The average number in the corresponding weeks of the ten preceding years was 768 boys and 670 girls—so that 900 children were born within the week above that average. The deaths numbered 963: viz., 473 males and 490 females. In the corresponding week in the year 1849 the deaths rose to 1967; and in that of last year to 1456: cholera was then raging in both those years. Taking corresponding weeks in the last ten years, the deaths ranged above 1000 in all the weeks of the series except three, those of 1845, 1847, and 1850, when the numbers were 827, 964, and 917 respectively—so that, considering the increased population, the deaths returned present a very favourable state of the public health.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.—It is now said that the Session will not be prorogued to-day (Saturday). The state of business is such as to render that impossible; and, from the indications given in the House of Lords on Tuesday night, it is more than probable that it will not terminate on Monday. Her Majesty will not prorogue Parliament in person.

ENCROACHMENTS ON VICTORIA PARK.—A deputation of gentlemen from the Tower Hamlets waited upon Sir Benjamin Hall, the Chief Commissioner of Public Works, on Tuesday, for the purpose of protesting against the encroachments on Victoria Park. Sir Benjamin Hall said he feared the deputation had mistaken his powers. It was the Commissioners of Land Revenue, who had the control of the property, who were the proper parties now to apply to. A great portion of the money required on the formation of the park was realised from the sale of hereditary property of the Crown, and the Crown, having given the rest to the public, retained one-fourth of it to reimburse itself, and must naturally wish to make the most of it. After some conversation the deputation withdrew.

GREAT FIRE NEAR WHITECROSS-STREET PRISON.—On Tuesday night, between the hours of nine and two, a fire, attended with the destruction of several thousand pounds' worth of property, broke out in an extensive pile of premises belonging to Mr. Thompson, fancy-box manufacturer, situate in Whitecross-street, nearly facing the prison. The premises were four stories high, and contained a great amount of stock; in fact, each floor was well filled. To save any of the stock in trade was an impossibility, and the inmates had difficulty in saving their lives. It was midnight before the conflagration could be arrested in its progress. As to the cause of the fire nothing could be ascertained.

TOWN AND TABLE TALK ON LITERATURE, ART, &c.

ARCHITECTS have not had so much matter of moment for conversation since a public building was burnt down as they have had this week in the publication by Parliament of Sir Charles Barry's plans for completing—what Sir Charles is pleased to call—"that great national work, the New Palace of Westminster." Exchequer tallies and Sir Charles Barry have been the means of spending already one million six hundred and sixty-three thousand nine hundred and fifty-four pounds sterling upon a new building at Westminster; and now he calls upon us to entrust to him nine hundred and thirty-one thousand five hundred and fifty-seven pounds more, to enable him to complete his national work "in a fitting and proper manner."

Your Palladio and Vitruvius hip-and-thigh men and your wild First and Second Pointed men are eagerly asking what is *Perpendicular* Sir Charles to give us for this further instalment. We will attempt to answer their question. He is to give us (and within four years and a half) a saddle-backed roof with flag-staff and flag on the Victoria Tower; a dwarf spire to his nearly-completed Clock Tower; a new people's gateway tower from Parliament-street to the great north entrance to Westminster-hall, and higher walls to the Great Hall of Rufus itself. These are the upper-air gifts. The lower-air additions include a new front (with a covered footway) facing St. Margaret's Church and Canning's Statue, a north front on the site of the present block of houses constituting Bridge-street, Westminster, and a statue of her Majesty. These changes compel him to throw New Palace-yard into a quadrangle, to remove the Law Courts he knows not where, and the church of St. Margaret's, Westminster, to any cheap site that can be found to interfere the least with Sir Charles' "great national building."

Critics who are not architects or builders find much to commend in Sir Charles Barry's plans. The new fronting the Law Courts and the erecting a new and uniform front to the north on the site of the Bridge-street block of houses are works absolutely necessary. The towers, moreover, must be completed. Competent authorities, however, differ about the taste and ingenuity exhibited in the newly-designed public entrance from Parliament-street. To us it appears heavy and ill-proportioned. Nor do we fall in with Sir Charles' views about the removal of St. Margaret's. When this church was built it was in keeping with the adjoining Abbey. Even now, in its churchwarden state, it materially assists to sustain the harmonious completeness of the great building under whose wing it seems to lie. But Sir Charles Barry has worked to render its removal a street necessity, and has so wrought unlike an architect caring for the works of other architects, and unlike a scholar whose well-stored memory is able to invest St. Margaret's with a long and highly-interesting train of historical associations.

The historian and antiquary will ask, with the true admirer of Gothic architecture, what is to be the cost of this unnecessary removal? We can inform them from the figures of Mr. Pennethorne, whose skill in forming correct estimates is not to be doubted. To find a new site alone for St. Margaret's involves an expenditure of £45,000; and to remove the church itself a further outlay of £23,000—or a matter of £68,000 in all! Now, of this sum, which we hope and trust Parliament will never consent to entrust to Sir Charles Barry for so tasteless and profitless a labour, a fifth part of it alone would be amply sufficient to restore the Church of St. Margaret's to its old keeping and character with the Abbey, which it illustrates historically and assists pictorially. Sir Charles must be watched in this matter. He is a bold architect who robs the Houses of Parliament of their Law Courts and their Church; sending the Law to Clare-market and the Church to Tothill-fields.

Death has just removed from among us one of the best of our old landscape engravers in the line manner. Mr. W. B. Cooke, whose name is so honourably attached to many of Turner's finest engravings, died at Camberwell on the 2nd inst., at the age of seventy-seven. He was the brother of the late George Cooke—that inimitable engraver in the same line of art, and the uncle of Mr. E. W. Cooke, A.R.A., whose sea calms and brisk gales have the true maritime and Vandervelde smack and relish.

Diogenes, price twopenny—once, it was said by some, a formidable rival to *Punch*—died on Tuesday last; and, by public advertisement, and an ingenious woodcut, has announced its coming demise in these few and graceful words—"Diogenes surrenders his pen to *Punch*." But *Punch*, we see, is not to have the field to himself without an opposition. This day appears the *Comic Times*, price only one penny.

It is not all up with poetry for the present. Mr. Tennyson can still command purchasers; and Mr. Moxon, who rightly judges that book good or bad just as it sells, is busy at press with a new edition of the recently-published "*Maud*." The whole of the first edition (three thousand copies) was insufficient for the first demand. The trade subscribed for four thousand copies, speculating, doubtless, on the run for the book from the popularity of the last publication of its author, "*In Memoriam*." "*Maud*" has divided the critics: even Mr. Tennyson's own little senate of Cambridge admirers speak in a less confident tone of the thousand and one beauties of "*Maud*." They admit (or rather some of them admit) that "*Alfred*" has been trying with the public some of those tricks in versification which his friends were able to laugh him out of when he had the ear of the public to win. Now that he has gained it he has become bold, and reverts to the metrical heresies of his youth with all the confidence of a Sidney or a Southey. The several forms of verse that the English language is capable of are, we fear, too well known. We have now no more discoveries to make. We have metrical structures amply sufficient to sustain the highest flights, and to allow of the most artful arrangement of words for the sweetness of pronunciation.

Ladies are asking with interesting eagerness "Where is the Grey Friars of the last number of the 'Newcomes'?" where is the death-scene of the dear Colonel really laid? "Old and Young Carthusians reply as eagerly, and we will add, proudly (and properly so), "in the Charter-house, where Thackeray was educated a century and a half after two of his favourite humorists—Addison and Steele." Whoever is, or is not given to the melting mood—so the talk runs—must be moved by the concluding number of the "Newcomes."

Sculptors are complaining that the rage for perpetuating heroes in marble and bronze is on the decline. This week affords us another instance of the accuracy of the observation. The monument about to be erected to Lord Raglan will have nothing to do with the sculptor's art, with St. Paul's, or with Westminster Abbey. The admirers of the deceased soldier are about to perpetuate their sense of his public services and private virtues by purchasing and entailing on his family a freehold estate, under the stately shadow of Raglan Castle—that castle from which the Field Marshal was proud to borrow his title in the British Peerage. This reminds us that Mr. Hallam is reported to have said that in our English antiquities we have nothing to point to of an older date than our hedges; and that Mr. Stanley has recently made the curious and suggestive discovery that a piece of land in Somersetshire, still held by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, was presented to that see by one of the murderers of a Becket. Few will hereafter look on those few acres without interest. May the Raglan memorial in the shape of land remain as long in the Somerset family as the Becket bit has remained with the see of Canterbury!

Auctions are nearly at an end for the season. One of interest still remains. On Tuesday next Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson will sell some curious broadsides and old and uncommon caricatures, the property of Mr. William Nicol, late of the Shakespeare Printing-office, in Pall-mall.

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD PAUL (formerly Miss Featherstone) are performing in Dublin with marked success. They have produced a new version in rhyme of the old fairy tale "*Cinderella*," which is having quite a run; Mr. Howard Paul impersonating the *Prince*, and his wife the heroine, *Cinderella*.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

THE St. Leger betting has begun to be rather more lively, but Onston's supporters have been somewhat discouraged by his defeat at Goodwood, and do not relish his threatened tilt with Wild Dayrell at York. Lord of the Isles has gained many friends from his Goodwood Cup running, for which he was not "half prepared," and Scott's party have brought the dark and curly Graculus Esuriens to 10 to 1. Coroner has been sold to Mr. Padwick for 1500 guineas; and Mary Copp, Oltenitz, and Corcebus have already won more than the sum for which Lord Eglington parted with his whole stud. Lord Exeter has announced five sires (including Stockwell, but not Midas) for sale, along with ten brood mares, seven yearlings, and thirteen foals, on the 25th inst. The show of horses at Malton last week was exceedingly good; Burgundy taking the head prize for blood-sires, and Galaor (formerly the property of the owner of Ravenhill) the second one. A splendid four-year-old colt by Cowl was the premier among the hunters, and was sold three times in the course of the day, the first time for 200 guineas!

The race meetings for next week are of no very interesting stamp. Wolverhampton stands for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; Reading, for Tuesday and Wednesday; Plymouth, for Thursday and Friday; Lewes, for Thursday and Friday; Eye, for Thursday; and Tonbridge, for Friday. The Northern Stakes will be kept in reserve for York, so that there are not likely to be any results bearing on the St. Leger.

Lord Sefton's death will cause no small blank in the coursing world, of which he was quite the Emperor. Unlike his father, who owned Mouche, Bobadilla, Souvenir, Juryman, Captain Arthur, Morris-dancer, &c., in his day, and was one of Harry Edwards's principal masters, he did not care about the turf, though he occasionally had a horse in the Liverpool Steeplechase, for which race he annually officiated as starter. He was a great shooter, and kept harriers till within the last two years, but his heart was in driving and coursing. As a driver of a four-in-hand he was not exceeded by Sir Henry Peyton, Sir Vincent Cotton, or any other member, living or dead, of that time-honoured club; and a very dark chesnut was his darling colour for a team. It is not so very long since he amused the Liverpool public at the docks by driving a pair down one side of the landing-stage for steamers, and up the other; and, if we remember rightly, he once drove a four-in-hand into Tattersall's yard, round the red-fox cupola, and out again. His greyhounds were his delight, and he gave them all names commencing with an S. Stay-maker was one of his especial favourites; and Senate won the Waterloo Cup for him in 1847, and his lengthy son Sackcloth the same prize in 1854. The latter won seventeen out of nineteen courses in the 1853-54 season, and travelled some 2600 miles to boot. His Lordship never won a prize over the plains of Aitcar after the Sackcloth cup day; and John James Henderson, who owned the second dog, Larriston, on that occasion, strange to say, died just a month before him. Skirmisher, for whom, with Sackcloth, he refused £200 in their sapling days, sadly disappointed him. For some years he had suffered from a wearing illness, which was greatly aggravated by the result of the great Hopwood trial at the last Liverpool Spring Assizes. He was buried at Sefton on Thursday, and ordered in his will that neither velvet nor silk should be used at his funeral, but that his body should be simply wrapped in linen, and the amount thus saved given to the poor. He was in his sixtieth year, and his sporting tastes are said to be fully inherited by his second son.

The Royal Yacht Squadron will have quite a gala week. On Monday the members sail their yachts for the Albert Cup; on Wednesday, for the R. Y. S. Cup; and on Friday for the Queen's Cup. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday are also allotted the Royal Thames National Regatta, and on Tuesday to the Dartmouth Regatta; while Thursday and Friday will attract the Brampton and "fell-side folk," with divers other Cumbrians, to the quiet shores of Talkin Tarn, where of late years Lord Carlisle has generally acted as steward. *Appropos* of yachts, we may mention that the far-famed *Pearl* has been very much lengthened, and is at present lying for sale in the East India Import Docks.

Cricketing does not flag as yet, though the weather has played sad havoc with it. Kent and Surrey play England at Canterbury on Monday; and on Thursday the Gentlemen of Kent and Surrey play the Gentlemen of England over the same ground. Both of these are return matches. On Thursday All England pitch their wickets at Nottingham; and on the same day the United All England meet twenty-two opponents at Chichester.

"The moors, the moors, the bonnie brown moors," will not be chanted with a very cheerful chorus on Monday, as the accounts of the grouse are very sad. Thousands have been found dead from liver disease or swelled windpipes, and the Scotch gamekeepers consider that they have seldom seen so many barren birds. Partridges as well as black game are, however, favourably reported of; and a 45 lb. salmon has been landed at "bonnie Dundee."

BRIGHTON RACES.—WEDNESDAY.

Bristol Plate.—S. hamyl, 1. Alcione, 2.
Third Brighton Biennial Stakes.—Escape, 1. Instructress, 2.
Brighton Stakes.—Mishap, 1. Fulbeck, 2.
Marine Plate.—Gondoline, 1. Protest, 2.
Brighton Nursery Stakes.—Lady Florence, 1. Elfrida, 2.
Corporation Plate.—Punchbox, 1. Missenden, 2.

THURSDAY.

Fourth Biennial Stakes.—Aleppe, 1. Ariel, 2.
Pavilion Plate.—Queen Mabilly, 1. William Rufus, 2.
Railway Plate.—Sandboy, 1. William Rufus, 2.
Brighton Cup.—Rataplan, 1. Sharavogue, 2.
Champagne Stakes.—Orinoco, 1. Rataplan, 2.
Sussex Stakes.—Overreach, 1. Flageolet, 2.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE.—TUESDAY.

Ladies' Plate of 50 sovs.—Korneo, 1. Fanny Fern, 2.
Champagne Stakes.—St. Dunstan, 1. The Lune, 2.
Tradesmen's Plate of 50 sovs.—Cherry Brandy, 1. Master Slender, 2.
North Staffordshire Handicap.—Seducer, 1. Whalebone, 2.
Newcastle Stakes.—Cockspur, 1. Syren, 2.

WEDNESDAY.

Second Biennial Stakes.—His Piper walked over.
Copeland Handicap.—Seducer, 1. Kiteflyer, 2.
Borough Plate.—Fanny Fern, 1.
Two-year-old Handicap.—Salmon, 1. Pera

WORCESTERSHIRE ARCHERY SOCIETY.—The first meeting of this society for the present season was held on Wednesday last, the 8th inst., at Leigh, near Worcester, in the picturesque grounds of T. Norbury, Esq., of Sheridge. The Lady Paramount (Lady Fakington) and a numerous company of the members and their friends were assembled. The shooting commenced at one o'clock, and did not terminate till a late hour in the afternoon, when the prizes were distributed to the successful candidates. We shall give a sketch of the archery grounds in our next week's paper, together with full particulars of the meeting.

THE GREAT WIZARD OF THE NORTH (Mr. J. H. Anderson) has taken the Lyceum Theatre, and intends to commence his season on Monday, Sept. 3, being his first appearance in London since his return from America.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE WELLINGTON FETE, which is to take place on Monday, at Crenome Gardens, promises the presence of the six bands of the Horse and Foot Guards and Royal Artillery; but the most remarkable effect will be the enactment of the storming and capture of the Mamelon Vert and rifle pits on a set scene, and models erected for the purpose, with real trenches, earthworks, and batteries in front of the colossal panoramic view of Sebastopol, extending over nearly an acre of ground. Five hundred soldiers, with three battering trains, are to be engaged in the spectacle. The result, we feel assured, will be largely tributary to the Wellington College fund, to which the proceeds are to be generously appropriated by the proprietor of the gardens.

TRIAL OF REAPING-MACHINES.—A trial of American, French, and English machines for cutting and gathering up corn, hay, &c., and which are now to be seen at the Paris Exhibition, took place at Trappes on Thursday week—Count de Gasparin presiding. A large number of persons were present; six tents were erected, and large quantities of potatoes provided, which, from the great heat of the day, were in general request. M. Dailly, on whose property the experiments took place, had a special tent erected, under which he hospitably entertained the members of the jury and other invited guests. There were nine machines on the ground—two French, four American, and three English. At a given signal they commenced their trial, which was to cut down 1733 square yards of oats. The American machine of McCormick completed its task in a masterly manner in seventeen minutes, the second American machine took twenty-three minutes, and the third twenty-four minutes. The other machines took from thirty-four minutes to one hour and twenty minutes to perform their work. The next trial was to cut down and gather up a given quantity of lucerne, when the palm of victory again fell to the machine of McCormick.

SUPPRESSION OF THE CONVENTS IN PIEMONT.—The Sardinian papers give some account of the commencement of the operations for the suppression of the convents in virtue of the new law. At Sassari, all the monastic establishments for males opened their doors to the authorities without the slightest difficulty, notwithstanding a circular from the Bishop exhorting them to resist. The nuns, on the contrary, with characteristic pertinacity, made a good deal of resistance, and in several instances the doors had to be forced open.

COSTUME OF THE SEASON.

[For our information on Dress and Fashion, we are indebted to the courtesy of MADAME (Einstein) DEVY, 73, Grosvenor-street, Grosvenor-square.]

THIS is just the season when no very decided novelty in dress can be expected. Still we may reasonably anticipate several weeks of warm weather before autumnal tints and autumnal chills warn our lady readers to bring forth their warm shawls and mantles; and accordingly we may yet gossip a little about the latest summer fashions.

For dresses of *barège*, muslin, or plain silk, flounces are universally adopted; and the dress is always of sufficient length in the skirt to admit the support of the stiffest petticoat, and yet touch the ground. The tendency of the modern style is even verging towards the hoop of our great-grandmothers; they found the sedan-chair almost a necessary of their lives, and certainly it requires some practice and dexterity for a modern belle to get in and out of a carriage—and to ride in one, too—without damage to her toilette.

Dresses of two colours are much worn. We will describe a walking dress which will be very suitable for next month. It is composed of rich black silk, with several flounces, mixed with borders of either violet colour, dark blue, or Imperial green. The corsage consists of the universally-adopted jacket, with trimmings of the same colour as the borders of the flounces. The sleeves are fully trimmed.

We may observe that bretelles or braces continue to be much worn, especially by young people.

Black silk mantles are of many designs; the favourite ones, however, are those which admit of being drooped behind to show the top of the dress, and of being left open before. A very handsome black mantle is trimmed with lace a quarter of a yard deep, headed by a quilling of ribbon interspersed with beads. Another, something more matronly, has a passementerie trimming of violet colour and black, and is ornamented with fringe instead of lace. A mantle intended for *demoiselles* is little more than a black silk scarf slightly shaped for the shoulder, and at the ends, but richly embroidered with black, in the Chinese style of embroidery.

There is a pretty jacket, for demi-toilette, composed of alternate rows of black lace and narrow green ribbon on a foundation of black net. The lace and ribbon are arranged so as to form a point at the waist behind, and, passing over the shoulders, they descend in the same manner before. Three rows of lace and three of ribbon put on in a slight wave form the basque, and the sleeves are made with puffings, the trimmings of which of course correspond with the remainder of the jacket.

Bonnets are still small, but are so shaped and contrived as not to leave the face so much exposed as they have done. Fancy straws, mixed with silk and ribbon, are much worn. There is a charming bonnet composed of fancy straw, blue silk and blonde, with a bunch of blue flowers on each side, and another bunch behind just above the curtain. The trimming next the face is extremely simple, consisting only of white blonde and delicate flowers similar to those on the outside. The strings are of blue sarcenet ribbon edged with black velvet.

Another very pretty bonnet is composed of bands of white chip, alternating with a transparency of tulle. This arrangement takes from the heaviness and hardness of outline which render the chip bonnet so trying to most faces. This bonnet is trimmed with green corn grass and water lilies.

A more matronly bonnet is of white crape and blonde, with a trimming of ivy and white roses.

A very charming evening dress is composed of pink tulle over pink silk. It has three flat flounces of pink tulle edged with white blonde, and ornamented with narrow pink satin ribbon, the upper flounce reaching about half way up the skirt, and the flounces being held down at intervals by pointed puffings of tulle. The upper part of the skirt is of pink tulle, looped up with wild roses and lilies of the valley. The corsage is a *la grecque*, and ornamented with narrow pink satin ribbon and white blonde. A peak behind, where the corsage laces: hanging sleeves fall over short ones.

Among some very handsome brocaded silks one of white *taffeta d'Italie* is particularly to be noticed. It is composed of a double skirt, each skirt being embossed with columns of shaded green flowers, gradually diminishing towards the waist, and edged with quite a novel fringe, composed of white and green shaded feathers.

There is no very recent change in caps and head-dresses. Everything is worn quite at the back of the head, and the hair continues to be rolled as heretofore. A mixture of blonde and ribbon seems greatly in favour, narrow ribbon being often edged with blonde; and the mixture of black and white blonde still prevails. Feathers are much worn, even by young ladies; one feather drooping on each side of the head. Yet nothing is more simply pretty for youthful belles than bows of rich ribbon with long ends, placed at the back of the head, and interspersed with bows and streamers of blonde. Flowers are also often intermixed with the blonde and ribbon.

Possibly the autumn may produce some novelties in *lingerie*; at present we need only remark that the under-sleeves are large and richly embroidered, closed at the wrist for morning wear, and that the collars, though of a full size, are not worn unbecomingly large.

COMMERCIAL INTERCOURSE BETWEEN CANADA AND FRANCE.—

Steps are being taken in Canada to extend the commercial intercourse of the province with France, the mother country of a considerable portion of the population; and the visit of M. de Belveze, captain of the frigate *Impérieuse*, of the Imperial French Marine, has been taken advantage of at Montreal and Quebec to bring the subject prominently forward. The visit of the French officer has for its object the promoting of trade relations between Canada and France. He has been for a couple of years in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and has busied himself in collecting various information in relation to its trade. It was stated at a recent meeting that it would be both desirable and advantageous to supply M. de Belveze with public documents that would afford him information relative to the trade and resources of Canada. It was in consequence of a previous report of this officer that he was sent on his present mission by the Emperor, who is also sensible of the generous grant of the Canadian Legislature for the widows and orphans of the Allied army. The total exports from Canada in 1854 were £5,112,527. To Great Britain there were £2,718,173, and to foreign countries £46,832 only. Canada might do a large direct trade with France, but the present tariff is of a nature to shut it out. To impose a duty of 18. 61. per gallon on light French wines, for instance, is to prohibit their importation; but if these fiscal restrictions were removed, there can be no doubt that a large direct trade would immediately spring up.

LAUNCH OF "LA HOGUE."

THE LARGEST SHIP EVER BUILT AT SUNDERLAND.

MONDAY, the 16th of July, was kept as a holiday in a large number of workshops at Sunderland, the object being to witness the launch of *La Hogue*, at the building-yard of Mr. James Laing, who has contributed several admirable specimens to the commercial marine of the country.

The tonnage of *La Hogue* by the new measurement would be 1478; but by the alteration in May last it stands at 1821. Her dimensions are as follows:—Length of keel for tonnage, 220 ft.; extreme breadth, 35 ft.; depth, 22 ft. 8 in.; length of poop deck, 95 ft. She has been built for the eminent firm of Messrs. Dunbar and Sons, of London, as a passenger ship to Australia; and will be commanded by Captain H. Neatby, an able and favourite commander in the Sydney trade. In her construction care has been taken that materials known for their strength and durability should alone be used. The frame is entirely of the best English oak; the planking, keelson, beams, and decks, are of East India teak; the scantling and thickness of plank exceeds what is required by Lloyd's rules for vessels of the highest class. Although ships of her length possess great advantages over shorter ships for sailing, and as good sea-boats, they necessarily require greater care in their construction, to overcome the tendency to alter their shape which such great length involves. The frame of *La Hogue* has therefore been trussed with iron bars, extending from the gunwale of the ship, and running at an angle of about



LAUNCH OF "LA HOGUE," THE LARGEST SHIP EVER BUILT IN SUNDERLAND.

thirty degrees from the top towards the ends at the bottom on the outside, whilst those on the inside are placed in an opposite direction, so as to cross the line of trussing on the outside, and bolted through every frame timber. The system of inside trussing has been applied in several instances; but this is the first time, we believe, it has been placed upon the outside of the frame. The advantages of it will be seen at once, when we consider the application of a hoop to an ordinary cask, the outside trussing operating in a similar manner in building the whole frame of the ship as the hoop does the staves of a cask. Since this trussing was fitted to *La Hogue* it has been applied to a steamer building in America for the United States Government, and for which a patent has been applied in that country by the builder. Upwards of twenty tons of copper has been used in the bolting of *La Hogue*, and sixty tons of iron knees.

The rain fell heavily for an hour previous to the launch, but this did not prevent a number of gentlemen learned in marine craftsmanship, inspect-

ing the huge hull which stretched from end to end of the yard; and to those not similarly engaged the music of an instrumental band ministered exquisite pleasure. Shortly after five o'clock the well-known loud and uninterrupted rattle of the carpenters' hammers announced that the last shore was about to be driven out. In a minute the rope at the bow was cut, the iron blocks fell down, out flew the remaining shore, and in a moment the towering fabric took the water as kindly as a "bird that seeketh its mother's nest," greeted with cheers from the yard, and from the hundreds of spectators who lined the opposite bank of the river.

LAUNCH OF A STEAMER BY TORCHLIGHT.

On Monday night last week the screw-steamer *Azoff*, of 800 tons burden, was launched by torchlight from the building-yard of Messrs. Bourne and

Co., in the Clyde. As the tides did not rise sufficiently high during the day, the vessel had to be launched at night, and a good deal of interest was excited by an event so unusual as a night launch. The vessel entered the water beautifully and without mishap of any kind, notwithstanding the impediments arising from the darkness of the night.

The *Azoff* is the first vessel built in the Clyde under Lloyd's new rules for the construction of iron ships. She has been built under the immediate inspection of Lloyd's surveyor, will have a high class on Lloyd's books, and is admitted to be the strongest steam-vessel of her size yet built in the Clyde. She is to be propelled by an engine of 180 horses power; and, as the model of the vessel is a very fine one, a speed of eleven knots an hour is expected. The *Azoff* will carry 1000 tons of cargo, 250 tons of coal, and 8000 gallons of water in tanks. She has besides, a spacious cabin, with accommodation for forty first-class passengers. The woodwork is principally of oak.



TORCHLIGHT LAUNCH OF THE IRON SCREW-STEAMER "AZOFF," IN THE CLYDE.

ARTHUR H. HASSALL, M.D., F.L.S., &c.

If one class of men more than another deserve to stand high in the estimation of their fellow men, it is those who devote their knowledge and scientific acquirements to the amelioration of the social condition of mankind by careful watchfulness over the necessities of health and life. It is absolutely necessary that such men become enthusiasts, as well as possessed of skill and talent enough, to bring about a successful issue in any undertaking for the public good. Enthusiasm is the motive power of all hard workers; and this excellent quality the subject of the present sketch evidently possesses in a very marked degree.

Dr. Hassall was born at Teddington, in Middlesex, December, 1817. His father was Mr. Thomas Hassall, of Durham, who at the outbreak of the Irish rebellion, in 1798, joined, in the double capacity of Surgeon and Captain, the



DR. HASSALL.—FROM A DAGUERRETYPE BY MAYALL

Durham Fencibles. Mr. Hassall's father and grandfather were also members of the medical profession—thus making four generations.

During early life Dr. Hassall did not exhibit any particular aptitude for books, but a very strong taste for the pursuits of Natural History developed itself. This, at first, was exhibited in a love for gardening, for rearing rare plants, and in making collections of natural objects of various kinds. As we shall see presently, this early taste was destined hereafter to lead to important results.

At the completion of his school education, in 1835, Dr. Hassall repaired to Ireland, took up his abode with his uncle, Sir James Murray, M.D., and entered, under his auspices, upon the study of medicine. This he pursued with great zeal, obtaining several prizes in the course of his medical studies. In 1839 he returned to England, and passed the College of Surgeons of London; and, in 1841, the Apothecaries' Hall.

It was while in Ireland and during his medical studies that the taste he had early acquired for Natural History became still more confirmed. The little leisure he could command was devoted to the study of a class of productions then not fully understood—viz., Zoophytes and Sponges, of which he made the best collection which then existed in Ireland; he also discovered several new species and genera—the results of his investigations being published from time to time in the *Annals of Natural History*. These observations and investigations are likewise recorded in Dr. Johnston's "History of the British Zoophytes and Sponges." In his preface to the former work, Dr. Johnston, remarks in referring to Dr. Hassall,—"Him I claim as my pupil in Zoophytology, and one ere long likely to surpass his master." In 1845 Dr. Hassall brought out in two volumes his "History of the British Fresh-water Algae."

Dr. Hassall next entered with ardour upon the study of the microscopical

anatomy of the human body, and brought out in 1849 his work in two volumes, and illustrated with nearly 500 figures in colours, entitled "The Microscopical Anatomy of the Human Body in Health and Disease."

Failing health compelled Dr. Hassall in 1849 to transfer his practice into other hands, and he then settled in Park-street, Grosvenor-square. It was while here that he turned his attention to the subject of the adulteration of food. He first prepared a paper upon ground coffee, in which he employed the microscope as a means of detecting adulteration. This was read to the Botanical Society of London; and was followed by an article on sugar. At this time the Editor of the *Lancet* communicated with Dr. Hassall, and engaged him to prepare a series of articles on the subject of adulteration, so as to admit of the publication of the names and addresses of the parties of whom the goods analysed were purchased.

In the fulfilment of his engagement to Mr. Wakley, Dr. Hassall has toiled at the subject of adulteration for nearly five years, and is still working at it. Dr. Hassall wrote all the Reports, with a single exception, which have appeared in the *Lancet* under the title of the Analytical Sanitary Commission; he prepared, with occasional chemical assistance, all the investigations, microscopical and chemical, and he has published the results of his labours in a separate work, under the title of "Food and its Adulterations."

As a proof of the estimation in which the labours of Dr. Hassall were held, the editor of the *Lancet* thus writes, August 19, 1854:—"In connection with these labours, we consider that the time has now come when the name of Dr. Arthur Hassall should be mentioned, on whom these inquiries have almost exclusively devolved, and to whom belongs the credit of having brought to light practices in relation to the adulteration of food of the highest importance, and of the extent and nature of which no one previously entertained any adequate conception. It is almost impossible to over-estimate the importance of these labours, either in a pecuniary or sanitary point of view, both as regards the public and the medical profession. To Dr. Hassall, then, we would say, belongs the merit of having established in this country a new and distinct department of public hygiene."

Occupied as he has been with this subject Dr. Hassall has yet found time for many other labours; thus he passed the necessary examinations to enable him to obtain the degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London and the license of the Royal College of Physicians.

He has likewise written a variety of papers connected with medical subjects, which are to be found in the "Transactions of the Medical Societies." Engaged in practice as a physician, he has also discharged his duties in that capacity to a metropolitan hospital.

At no period have frauds upon the public, in the shape of adulterations, been so fearlessly dealt with as at the present time, when a Committee of Inquiry by the House of Commons has been engaged day after day listening to the detailed exposure of this vile system of dishonesty, so skilfully arraigned before the bar of public opinion by the labours of Hassall and other scientific men.

We are prone to believe that the growing intelligence and inquiring spirit of the masses, with the much-increased facilities of detection so ably pointed out by Dr. Hassall, and afforded by modern science, will tend not merely to check the evil for the time being, but ultimately to suppress such dangerous dealing with the health of her Majesty's subjects.

MEYERBEER.

THE greatest dramatic musician of the age—for Rossini and Spohr, though living, belong rather to the past than the present—is Giacomo Meyerbeer. This great composer was born at Berlin in the year 1791, of a wealthy family, his father having been an eminent banker of that city. In his childhood, like many celebrated musicians, he was very precocious; in this respect, indeed, almost a second Mozart. At ten years old he was considered one of the best pianists in Berlin, and had composed many pieces, both vocal and instrumental, with no other guide than the instinct of his genius. At fifteen he placed himself under the tuition of the learned Abbé Vogler, who initiated him into the mysteries of counterpoint, and laid the foundation of that mastery of combination for which the works of Meyerbeer (his later ones especially) are distinguished. His first dramatic work, "Jephtha's Daughter," was produced at Munich when he was eighteen. He was then under the scholastic trammels of the Abbé Vogler; and his music was too stiff and elaborate to please. His next opera, "Alcimelek, or the Two Caliphs," composed for the Court Theatre at Vienna, failed from the same cause. These failures were mortifying, but salutary lessons to the young artist: he saw his error, and wisely went to Italy to study melody. His studies bore rich fruit; and it was the richer for being the produce of Italian boughs grafted on a German stem. Meyerbeer did not unlearn the German counterpoint of the Abbé Vogler; but he acquired the art of making it, what it ought to be, the aid and handmaid of melodious song. Thus his Italian style came to be a better style than that of the Italians themselves, who (in

modern times t) are shallow harmonists, and trust too much to the attractions of melody alone.

Meyerbeer's first Italian opera, "Romilda e Costanza," was produced at Padua in 1818. It was followed by "Semiramide Riconosciuta," per-



MEYERBEER.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY CLAUDET.

formed at Turin in 1819, and by "Emina di Resburgo" at Venice in 1820. This last was not only received with enthusiasm throughout Italy, but was successful even in Germany.

One of Meyerbeer's early friends and fellow-students under the Abbé Vogler, was the author of the "Freischütz." Weber, who was a thorough German in his musical notions, did not approve of his friends' backslidings—his falling away from the true faith, and Italianizing his style. He used to remonstrate with him on the subject, and showed how much he was in earnest, by bringing out, as manager of the Dresden theatre, not one of Meyerbeer's successful Italian pieces, but the German opera (the Two Caliphs) which had failed at Vienna; while he wrote a critique in a musical journal, lauding this work to the skies. Their differences on this point, however, had no effect in lessening the warmth of their friendship. There is a pleasant letter from Weber to his namesake Gottfried Weber, the celebrated writer on harmony, in which he describes a visit he had received from Meyerbeer. "Last Friday," he says, "I had the joy of having Meyerbeer to spend a whole day with me. It was a truly happy day—a reminiscence of the good old times at Mannheim. We did not part till midnight. Meyerbeer is going to Trieste to produce his "Crocato." Next year he returns to Berlin, where he will perhaps write a German opera. Heaven grant it! I have made many appeals to his conscience."

The "Crocato in Egitto," the opera mentioned in this letter of Weber's was preceded by another Italian Opera, "Margherita d'Anjou," which was produced at the Scala Theatre, at Milan, in 1822. It had great success; but was eclipsed by the "Crocato in Egitto" was first performed, not



THE FRENCH LOAN.—SCENE AT THE HOTEL OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, RUE DE RIVOLI, PARIS.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



BAMBA MAMI LAHAI, KING OF MALAGHEA.

(Continued from page 174.)

reached at a distance of about thirty miles, situated on its left bank; but, owing to the elevation of the plateau on which it was built, and the luxuriance of surrounding vegetation, only

a small portion of it was seen from the anchorage, with the two buildings near the landing-place which formed a French "factory," or warehouse, for European goods. Fortunately, at the time the merchandise they contained amounted in value to only about £2000; the whole of which, with the building, was deliberately destroyed—not by the natives, but by the Sierra Leone people. Malaghea was a free proprietary town, containing about 6000 inhabitants. It was of considerable extent, although inferior to Fouriecarish, the capital, and to some other principal towns within the neighbouring territories of confederated chiefs. A wall extended around it, and also on either side of its numerous irregular streets, from which ingress was effected through square or round towers into irregularly-formed walled yards or inclosures, each containing the several houses of a family. The houses were generally very commodious, well constructed, and, in most instances, extremely clean, and nearly ornamented by carved figures, something after the Egyptian style; whilst their high conical roofs, very thickly thatched with a fine grass, secured an agreeable coolness within the walls, beyond which they extended several feet, to form, and afford shade to, the outer piazzas. Within the town were several mosques, from which it may be inferred that the people are Mahometans; and there were also schools and some religious institutions. There is an excellent race-course outside the walls, flanked on both sides by forest trees; and the country in the neighbourhood is extremely picturesque.

BAMBA MAMI LAHAI,

the most sagacious and distinguished chief of the Moriah people, although (owing to a rigid adherence to hereditary succession) not their King, is about fifty years of age, with a countenance extremely prepossessing and indicative of that superior intelligence which is known (although not as it appears by the Sierra Leone Government) to exercise a powerful, and, to a great extent, a controlling influence in the councils of numerous independent Chiefs whose territories in one direction stretch from the coast into the far interior, and in another, lie in the immediate neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, and extend even far to the southward of it. Easy and affable in his demeanour; simple in his habits; manifesting, at all times, a parental kindness to his people; rigid without a tincture of fanaticism, in the observance of his religious duties in the faith of Mahomet; he cannot, if he would, by his calm and impassive countenance, conceal from any attentive observer of human nature, the workings of a mind of no ordinary stamp among West African chieftains; whilst the respect and homage of his compatriots and allies attest the wisdom of a policy which, for some years past, has included the promotion of "legitimate traffic" with Europeans; the encouragement of agriculture; the extension of his religious faith amongst Pagan tribes; and, among his highest aspirations, a friendly alliance with the British Government! He appears in our sketch at a moment of domestic seclusion, in a simple undress, but not in the undress we commonly assign to Africans, the white bandeau round his cap being the only mark of distinction, and which is worn only by "learned men." He speaks English indifferently, but he is a good Arabic scholar, and writes it beautifully, although in the more popular languages, Soosoo and Mandingo, he may perhaps be most fluent. The loose white robe, or "shirt," extending below the knees over closely plaited short small-clothes, is as much the garb of ease in such a climate as the dressing-gown of an European, although it is generally worn of coarser materials, most frequently of blue calico, among the inferior natives. Etiquette, however, among the chiefs, requires something more, and they adopt an outer



MAHOMADOO TUREY, MINISTER OF THE KING OF MALAGHEA.

robe over the white "shirt," of the same construction but of superior materials, and of a pattern which caprice may suggest, except on particular occasions, when, scarlet, purple, green, and other coloured velvet, either plain or figured, denotes their particular families. Scarlet is that of Bamba Mami Lahai, Chief of Malaghea, and who, as chief also of the Moriah forces, may occasionally be seen with English jack-boots and spurs, sword, pistols, and spear, mounted upon a gaily-caparisoned charger. By the last accounts we learn that, anticipating another attack, he had 13,000 men under arms within a few days after the British expedition retreated; and a general league, offensive and defensive, is now established among the numerous chieftains. His Minister,

MAHOMADOO TUREY,

although not, perhaps, of the same intellectual standard as his master, is, nevertheless, an intelligent and clever man. He is about six feet in height, well-proportioned, with more regular features, and a countenance approaching nearer to the European than Lahai's. Early in life he was sent to England, and on his route spent some time at Newfoundland. On reaching London he remained some years under the protection of a gentleman connected with one of the most



PART OF THE MANDINGO TOWN OF MALAGHEA, ON THE MELLICOURIE RIVER, WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

eminent mercantile firms in the City, and acquired a knowledge of the English language and a respect for the English character. He also reads and writes Arabic, and speaks two or three of the popular languages in this part of Africa. He is far more scrupulous in matters of dress and etiquette than the distinguished chief whom he serves, and whose policy it is his great aim to promote. Not less rigid in the observances of his religion, he, in common with the Moriah people, abjures rum and all intoxicating drinks; neither is the smoking of tobacco practised among them.

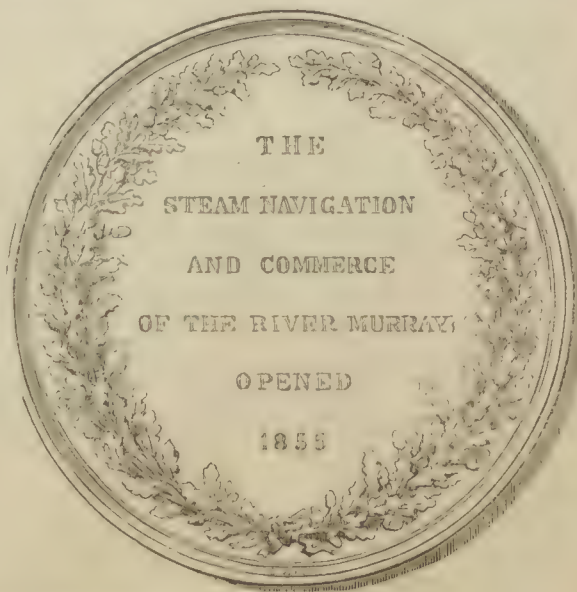
GOLD MEDAL PRESENTED TO CAPTAIN CADELL.

In the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS for April 22, 1854, we gave an interesting summary from a Parliamentary Blue-book, recently published, of the recent navigation of the Murray River, in South Australia, by Captain Francis Cadell, at whose private risk, and by whose individual exertions, principally, the opening of that important river to commerce has been accomplished. Lieutenant-Governor Sir Henry Young, in announcing to the Legislative Council, in October, 1853, the arrival of the *Goolwa*, of the first river-borne wool, the produce of the vast basin of the Murray, stated that Captain Cadell's voyage on the Murray reached to 150 miles beyond

Swan-hill, a distance of about 1450 miles from the sea; and was also extended to sixty miles up the Wakool, an important branch of the Murray. Within a few days from the above date an address was pre-

sented from the Legislative Council to the Lieutenant-Governor, requesting his Excellency to cause three gold medals to be executed in commemoration of the opening

up of the steam navigation and commerce of the Murray: one medal to be presented to the Lieutenant-Governor, whose personal exertions promoted the great enterprise, and in whose administration it originated; the second medal to be conferred on Captain Francis Cadell, who completed the first commercial voyage, as owner and commander of the *Lady Augusta* steamer and *Eureka* barge, with a cargo of Murray wool; and the third medal to be deposited with the records of the Legislature of South Australia. This request has been complied with; and the three medals have been executed at her Majesty's Mint by Mr. Leonard C. Wyon, from gold the produce of South Australia; and we now engrave this interesting tribute to exploration and enterprise. To Captain Cadell has also been presented a gold candelabrum—engraved in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of Feb. 24th last. We are happy to learn that the Legislative Council has voted the sum of £4000 to Captain Cadell, on condition that within eighteen months he employs two additional steamers on the Murray and Darling rivers: this Captain Cadell has undertaken to do; and arrangements have been made for the requisite number of steamers and barges.



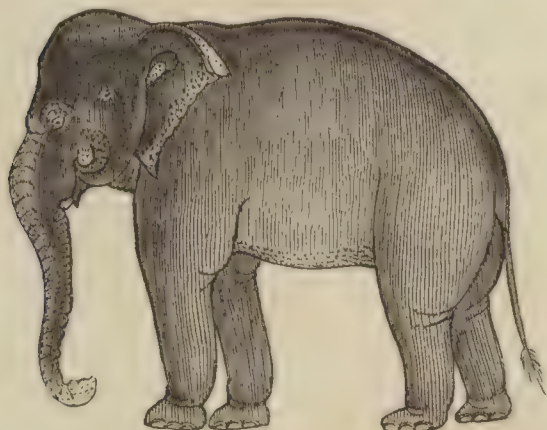
GOLD MEDAL PRESENTED TO CAPTAIN FRANCIS CADELL, THE AUSTRALIAN EXPLORER.

S K E T C H E S I N S I A M .



SIAMESE FLOATING HOUSE, ON THE RIVER MENAM.

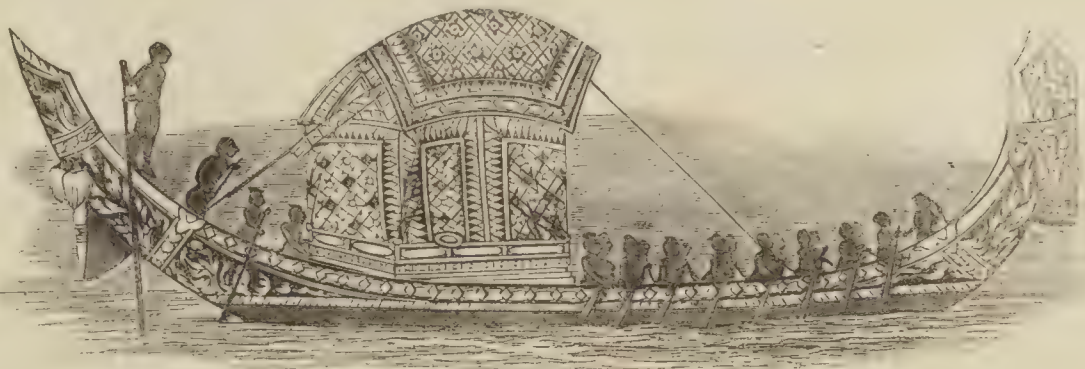
THE peaceful victory just won in the far East by Sir John Bowring, who succeeded, contrary to all expectation, in negotiating a most favourable treaty with the not unimportant Kingdom of Siam, has failed, amid the surrounding din of war and the conflicting struggles of political parties, to attract the degree of attention which it deserved. We are, therefore, induced to give publicity to the following particulars, collected from the Eastern prints, and other sources of information; considering that a suc-



SIAMESE ELEPHANT.

cessful diplomacy, which, triumphing over the cherished prejudices of centuries, subdues without bloodshed, in a few brief weeks a whole nation to new and liberal views, and thus throws open to our trade and enterprise a broad and fertile region, hitherto all but secluded from the Western commercial world, should be deemed worthy no small meed of praise and public notice.

True, by the old treaty, which Colonel Burney negotiated for us in 1826, the English were admitted to commercial intercourse with Siam; but, under such disadvantageous terms, that for some eleven years past a British vessel has seldom gone to Siam to trade. The measurement duty, allowed by that treaty, which amounted even after its reduction of one-third, at the commencement of the present reign, to about £800 for an ordinary



SIAMESE STATE BARGE.

ship, was, in effect, prohibitive; besides which, a monopoly of the chief products of the country by the Government or its officers had sprung up, privileged nobles interested themselves in trade, the export of rice and teakwood was forbidden, the productive industry of the country was stifled by internal regulations which violated every principle of political economy, and increasing distrust of English power and supremacy in the East was felt; in fact Siam was fast settling down into the narrow exclusive policy pursued by her sister kingdoms—Burmah and Cochin-China.

Most opportune, therefore, was the visit; and, when the obstacles it had to encounter are considered, most wonderful was the success of the late Embassy. None were more surprised at its result than the merchants of Singapore, and the few foreign residents of Bangkok, those who best knew the seemingly insurmountable difficulties in its way.

Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary enjoyed the advantage of having long been a correspondent of the King of Siam, and on his arrival was received with great cordiality as an old friend as well as with the respect due to the Court he represented. Elegant State barges and a numerous escort were provided to bring him and his suite to the capital; and, instead of the chain or boom being stretched across the river to prevent the steamer following him, as had been done under the former reign, at the time of Sir James Brooke's

I beg to remain your very obedient servant
Obt. M. H. H. H.
Rom Siam

WRITING OF THE KING OF SIAM.

visit, the *Rattler* was allowed to proceed up the river to Bangkok, where no armed steamer had ever been before, and to take her position in front of the residence of the Embassy. Favoured with a private audience by his Majesty he secured the early appointment of the Royal



BARGE OF THE KING OF SIAM.

Commissioners with whom he was to treat, prominent among whom were his Royal Highness Krom Kluang Wong Sa Tiradh Snidh, a half-brother of the King and one of the Chief Counsellors of State, and his Excellency the P'ra Kalahom, or Prime Minister.

In conference with these Commissioners all the points of the proposed new treaty were brought forward, and agreed to or rejected; Sir John, by his tact and steady firmness, carrying every point he deemed essential; till in seven days—an instance of dispatch without parallel in the history of Siam—all was concluded and the treaty ready for signing.

We extract the following from the *Straits Times* and *Singapore Journal of Commerce*—

There were four State meetings—three with the first King, and one with the second King, on which occasion the display of Oriental pomp—producing, when not too closely scrutinized, an effect as gorgeous as it was novel—was such as to convey the European visitors into the regions of Eastern romance, and to enable them to realise the pictures of the "Arabian Nights"—visions of "barbaric pomp and gold" which seem not to belong to real history. The first formal reception took place in one of the magnificent temples of Siam, whose pagoda is 200 feet high, and dazzles the eye with the many-coloured adornings of glass and metal which reflect the sunbeams from its elegant spires. Hither the King had come in his magnificent State barge to worship Buddha; and here, in the presence of an immense multitude of people, and of hundreds of prostrate princes and nobles, and in the midst of the most ostentatious accompaniments of royalty, the King sat on a raised throne and publicly received the British Minister. But the principal reception took place, after the settlement of the treaty, in the Great Hall of Audience within the Palace, which we will proceed to describe.

A flotilla of State barges conveyed the Plenipotentiary and suite, numbering eighteen gentlemen with the naval officers included, to the landing-place, and thence they were carried in chairs through lines of troops and elephants, the former extending from the water-side to the inner enclosure of the Palace—a distance of several hundred yards—to a building where they waited for a short time until their arrival was announced. At this spot the previous Embassies had been required to submit to various humiliating observances, such as the surrender of swords, the removal of shoes or boots; but these were now omitted. The Plenipotentiary had already made it known that, although desirous to pay his Siamese Majesty every mark of respect in his power, his Excellency's duty to his own Sovereign equally forbade the adoption of any derogatory form; and the King—in the exercise of that good sense which has often enabled him to rise above local prejudices, and to take liberal views of manners and mankind—admitted the reasonableness of Sir John's arguments, and thus prevented trouble arising out of mere questions of etiquette. When summoned, therefore, to the Audience-Hall, the Plenipotentiary and all the officers proceeded there on foot without laying aside any portion of their dress; they passed the double gates which guard the inner enclosure of the palace, crossed a spacious court, and entering a vestibule found themselves in the presence of Royalty, and spectators of a scene as peculiar as it was splendid. The King sat on his throne at the opposite end of the hall to that by which the Embassy had entered. Up to within twenty or thirty feet of the throne the floor was covered with Princes, Ministers, Courtiers, and other officers—many magnificently, and all showily, attired. An open space, a few feet in width, remained vacant in the middle of the prostrate Court, along which the Plenipotentiary advanced to a cushion placed about thirty feet from the throne, and on a line with the position occupied by the highest of the nobles. After bowing three times Sir John Bowring took his seat; Mr. Consul Parkes being on his right, Mr. J. C. Bowring (private secretary to his Excellency) on his left, and Captains Kean and Melish and the other officers immediately behind the Plenipotentiary. The elevation of the King's seat was about fifteen feet from the floor. Sir John delivered a speech laudatory of his Majesty's reign and the wisdom shown by him in respect of the negotiations so happily concluded. His Majesty, in reply, reviewed the previous Embassies, and expressed a hope that the present treaty would enable the two countries to know much more of each other than they had hitherto done. Some conversation followed on less important subjects; and the audience having lasted about three-quarters of an hour, the King rose and withdrew—and a curtain drawn at the same moment excluded the throne from sight. The Plenipotentiary and party then retired, but the former was immediately summoned to a private audience with the King; after which they were conducted to visit several of the temples near the Palace, and also to see the new white elephant—the capture of which, after the decease of the last one, had afforded the King great satisfaction.

The ceremonies of the audience with the second King were identical with those observed towards the first. The audience-hall and throne of the former are not so large, or so profusely decorated, as those of his Royal brother, and the number of prostrate courtiers may have been smaller; but the order, cleanliness, and excellent arrangements of the outer premises of the Palace elicited great admiration; and the same terms of approval are applicable to the appearance of the second King's troops, of which there must have been two thousand men on the ground, with some superbly-caparisoned horses and elephants, and a park of artillery. Sir John Bowring, in his speech to the second King, alluded very justly to this Prince's love of western science, in which he has made considerable advancement.

Both Kings have sent handsome presents and letters written on plates of gold to the Queen, the delivery of which was also attended with much pomp and circumstance. The Plenipotentiary and suite attended at the Palace of the first King to receive them, or rather to see them delivered into the hands of high officers who were appointed to convey them to her Majesty's steamer *Rattler*; and to join in the grand procession that was formed for this purpose. The letters and presents were carried upon thrones to the State barges—those used by the Kings themselves being employed to carry the letters and presents as far as Pak-nam. The elegance of the Royal State barges or galleys can scarcely be exceeded: they are upwards of 100 feet in length, are intended to represent a dragon, or some sea-monster: they are gilt from stem to stern, both of which rise to a great height out of the water, and a seat or throne, covered with a canopy of most symmetrical proportions, is placed in the middle of each boat. The first King's barge is richer in its decorations than that of the second King. The other State barges are of almost equal size; but crimson paint, picked out with gilt or other colouring in relief, take the place of gold, with which the Royal barges are emblazoned. Each barge carries from forty to eighty rowers, all of whom are dressed in scarlet.

But, without dwelling longer on these State exhibitions, which would well merit a more careful and detailed description, we will employ our remaining space in glancing briefly at the results of Sir John Bowring's Embassy, and the nature of the treaty we understand he has concluded, apparently to the great satisfaction of the merchants of Singapore, by whom it has been so long desired.

It has been agreed, it seems, that the restrictions and impediments which had nearly completed the destruction of foreign—by which we mean European—trade shall be removed from the 6th April, 1856, on which day the new treaty comes into effect. The old farms and monopolies, with the exception of the opium farm, are from that date to be abolished; and also the measurement dues—an import and export tariff taking the place of the latter. The treaty also provides that produce from the time of growth to that of shipment shall pay but one tax or duty, and it is easy to see what a stimulus is thus given to production. In some instances the duty will be on exportation, in others on its transit through the interior. The import tariff, we are informed, is the same as that in force with Siamese and Chinese vessels. Everything may be exported, but the Siamese Government reserves to itself the right of prohibiting, in time of scarcity, the exportation of salt, rice, and salt fish. The import duty is to be three per cent on the market value of the goods, payable in money or in kind at the option of the importer. British subjects will have liberty to rent or purchase houses and lands anywhere within a distance that can be reached within twenty-four hours from Bangkok. A fleet pulling boat may accomplish fifty or sixty miles within the above-mentioned space of time. Within four miles of Bangkok, however, a residence of ten years is the condition of holding lands in fee. With proper passports travellers may proceed into the country beyond the above-mentioned limits. Siamese may be employed by British subjects in any capacity, and British subjects will be allowed to build ships in the Menam, if they can find it convenient to do so; but as the Siamese Government is apprehensive—though probably unnecessarily so—of their supplies of teak running short, permission to build must, in each instance, be obtained. Perhaps the most important of all is the appointment of a Consul, under whose sole jurisdiction British subjects will henceforward be placed, and an opportunity will be afforded of remedying any imperfections that may be found in the treaty, its rules and arrangements, by the closing-clause which provides for its revision, at the desire of either party, after the lapse of ten years.

We should be doing an injustice, however, to the present enlightened ruler of Siam, and his Royal brother the second King—who, though inferior to the first King, holds a regal position in the country—if we omitted to invite attention to their talents and attainments, which, when viewed in conjunction with the friendly and liberal feeling they evince towards the Nations of the West, entitle them to a most creditable and prominent position among the Princes of the East. The first King, who enjoys the long name of Somdet Phra Paramendit Maha Mongkut, is now in his fifty-first year, and early sought to satisfy his spirit of learning and research by studying profoundly the sacred literature of his own country, and the still more classical Sanscrit. His curiosity then prompted him to acquire, under the tuition of some Roman Catholic missionaries, a knowledge of Latin; but he subsequently pursued with greater industry the study of English, in which he was assiduously assisted by the American missionaries resident in Siam. In the latter study he progressed sufficiently to express his

ideas, both in speaking and writing, with fluency and facility; and he then turned his knowledge to good account by using it as a means of acquiring an insight into European science—astronomy in particular, and succeeded so far as to be able to calculate lunar and solar eclipses, latitudes and longitudes, &c. He has also a high appreciation of European improvements, has collected various astronomical and philosophical instruments, keeps a printing and a lithographic press constantly employed in his palace, and has lately ordered from America a steam-engine of twenty-horse power.

Nor can the attainments of the second King—who can also speak, read, and write English, and who has made himself master of the elements of navigation—be regarded in a less remarkable light. All his information is of an eminently practical cast, and he renders himself particularly pleasing towards Europeans by his easy, affable, and refined manners. His good taste is exemplified in his private palace, lately constructed by himself, on the model of a European house; round the rooms of which are arranged engravings, bookcases filled with foreign books, cabinets of arms, sextants, and chronometers, and several statues of his own modelling—prominent among which appears one of her Majesty Queen Victoria. An excellent laboratory and a workshop on the ground-floor of his palace bespeak his attachment to both science and art.

We trust that with this one, at least, of the many countries of the East with whom we have been brought in contact, our relations may always remain of the peaceful nature which a faithful adherence to this new treaty would not fail to secure, and that the interesting potentates with whom it has been negotiated may never have cause to regret their adoption of a liberal and friendly policy.

The illustrations represent a Siamese floating-house, of which thousands are to be seen at Bangkok, moored along the river Menam; two State boats—that with the lofty canopy being a representation of one of the Royal barges, the other being of the style employed by the nobles. The representation of the white elephant is taken from a sketch made under the direction of the King himself. It is well known that these animals of the race are considered sacred by the Siamese, are treated with the attributes of Royalty, and the figure of one of them emblazoned on a red ground constitutes the standard of the nation.

MUSIC.

THE only noticeable occurrence during the present week at the Royal Italian Opera has been the performance of Rossini's "Otello" on Tuesday evening—produced, apparently, with the view of giving Tamberlik and Madame Viardot, who have had little to do during the season, some opportunity for display before the theatre closes. As usual when this opera is given, there was an indifferent house, and the performance—though Tamberlik and Viardot were occasionally applauded with considerable warmth—went off heavily. With an English audience, indeed, it cannot well be otherwise, for it is not easy to sit with patience to witness the barbarous way in which an Italian poetaster has murdered one of the noblest and most pathetic of all the tragedies of Shakspeare, depriving it of plot, character, and interest, and, in truth, turning it into a vapid piece of burlesque. Rossini, to his credit be it spoken, had taste enough to despise this libretto, and to accept it with reluctance; but the Neapolitan playwright was a noble Marquis and a fashionable dilettante; and the composer was too much a man of the world to allow his judgment to interfere with his interest. There are fine things in the music; but it bears unequivocal marks of haste and carelessness. The style is prolix, the phrases having evidently been written down as they came uppermost, without any endeavour to give them strength by means of conciseness. The movements, consequently, are spun out and rendered tedious by endless repetitions and passages of mere *remplissage*. The music, when finely performed, will give minutes of delight; but these are dearly purchased by hours of ennui. The part of *Otello* has probably never been better performed than by Tamberlik. He has the high, heroic cast and bearing of Shakspeare's own Othello; and there are two scenes—when *Otello* listens with agony and fury to the black calumnies of *Iago*, and when, with murder in his heart, he enters the chamber of his sleeping wife—in which Tamberlik rises to the tragic power of Shakspeare himself. On Tuesday night his voice was more than usually tremulous, and lacked sustained strength. He appeared to be husbanding his powers for the sake of those tremendous bursts, on the highest notes of the scale, by which, in scenes of intense passion, he often electrifies the whole audience. Madame Viardot's *Desdemona* has been deeply studied, and is full of art. She lacks, however, one thing which is essential to consummate art—the art of concealing art. Madame Viardot, both as an actress and a singer, is too elaborate. She endeavours so incessantly to throw meaning into every look and gesture, that her acting has an air of exaggeration; and, in singing, she is so anxious to be original, that she too often changes the composer's text by new readings, variations, and embellishments. Whatever she does is done with the skill of a thorough artist; but this artistic skill is sometimes made apparent—as in the little ballad "Assisa al piè d'un salice," in the final scene, when the utmost plainness and simplicity would be far more touching. These, we apprehend, are the faults of Madame Viardot's performance of this character—faults more easily described than the many beauties for which it is distinguished. Graziani's fine baritone voice was heard to great advantage in the part of *Iago*, and those of *Rodrigo* and *Elmiro* were exceedingly well sung by Lucchesi and Tagliafico. The "Etoile du Nord" has continued to be so successful that it has been twice repeated this week—on Monday and Thursday, which last was the closing night of the season.

The English operatic performances at DRURY LANE continue to draw full houses. They have consisted of Balfe's "Bohemian Girl" and Wallace's "Maritana," both of which are got up with no inconsiderable splendour, and are, on the whole, very respectably performed. In both of them the principal singers are the same: namely, Miss Lucy Escott, Mr. Corri, Mr. Hamilton Braham, and Mr. Elliot Galer. Mr. Smith's *entreprise* deserves the success it has met with.

THE THEATRES.

ST. JAMES'S.—Mlle. Rachel has extended the number of her performances. On Monday she acted the part of *Malame de Blossac*, in Madame Girardin's comedy of "Lady Tartuffe"; and on Wednesday repeated *Adrienne Lecouvreur*. On both occasions the house was overflowing.

DRURY LANE.—On Thursday Mlle. Rachel appeared in one scene of Racine's Scriptural tragedy, "Athalie." The occasion was a benefit on behalf of the French Charitable Association. The portion of "Athalie" selected was from the second act of the drama; which embraces the vision of *Athalie* and the interrogatory of *Joas*. The vaudeville of "Le Dépit Amoureux" was also performed by the French company, under the direction of M. Raphael Felix. The success of Rachel on these occasions has been indeed triumphant. As a tragic artist she is unrivalled—such is the subtlety, the force, the variety of her talents. Her action, which is always abundant, is so modulated, that its immense diversity forms a series of harmonic relations in perpetual change, and ever mutable significance. Their style of histrionic display operates as it were magically on the spectator, and involves him in a vortex of enthusiasm from which he cannot escape. Our native acting is poor in comparison; and it is a spur to the ambition of our own artists, that we have always welcomed Rachel, and we now bid her adieu, not only with feelings of admiration, but of gratitude.

SADLER'S WELLS.—The Olympic Company, under the direction of Mr. Wigan, has migrated hither for a short period. "Tit for Tat," "The First Night," and "The Wandering Minstrel," have been the pieces for the week. The pit has been respectably attended; and on Tuesday, when we were present, the applause was loud and frequent. Mr. Robson appeared to be an especial favourite, and his humour provoked excessive laughter. The inhabitants of Islington have reason to be delighted with this diversion.

ADELPHI.—"The Writing on the Wall" was revived on Monday. Mr. Wright, in *Trotter*, was highly amusing.

THE SCANDINAVIAN KINGDOMS.—A correspondent of the *Times*, writing from Copenhagen, strongly urges on the English Government the advisability of showing sympathy for the political struggles and national feelings of the people of the Scandinavian States. "Taking the three Scandinavian States together, it may be safely affirmed that the national spirit is strongly and decidedly anti-Russian. Luckily, the people of the North possess other elements of strength, which are to the spirit of nationality what a healthy *physique* is to the soul. They are not effete or falling into decrepitude, but hardy, industrious, and progressive. They are more numerous and more wealthy than they were half a century ago, and they have had full experience of the evils that spring from division. In Denmark the national party is engaged in a struggle—likely to be final and decisive—to retain the popular constitution against the pressure put on the Government by Germany. In Sweden and Norway the question of a Scandinavian 'unity' is being agitated with increased energy."

THE WAR IN THE CRIMEA.

(From our Artist and Special Correspondent.)

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, July 26.

ON Sunday last four squadrons, of the 11th, 4th, 8th, and 17th, were ordered to Baidar, under the command of Colonel Peel, of the 11th. The cavalry brigade of General D'Allouville, which had been quartered for some time at Baidar, had been moved forward five miles up the vale in a northerly direction, to protect the foragers from two Russian regiments of cavalry which are in force there. Here was an opportunity of visiting Baidar and the celebrated pass of P'horos, which I thought it interesting to seize. I have already described the passes which lead from Kamara to Varnoutka, where the Turks had formed so picturesque an encampment. Since their departure Varnoutka, with its groves of trees, has lost one of the sources of its temporary beauty, and there is not a single relieving point of white in the deep green masses of its woods, or the dun colour of its sunburnt fields. The morning chosen for my visit to Baidar wore into a hot and hazy noon; and the sun, darting perpendicularly down on the gorges of the defile leading into Varnoutka, raised a filmy mist impregnated with unpleasant miasma. The roads were lined with carcasses of oxen and horses, many of which, exposed to great heat, were tainting the air and startling our horses; whilst others, with heaving sides and bloodshot eyes, were lolling their tongues in the agonies of death. Upwards of 200 head of cattle thus lined the road to Baidar, where we ascertained that the beasts, sent up in droves by the Commissariat, usually arrived decimated, and sometimes reduced to inconsiderable numbers. The cause of this it may be well to state, for it involves one of the vices of our contract system. The beasts imported for the consumption of the army are contracted for to be delivered at certain ports in the Black Sea, where they are shipped on board of steamers. Whether it arises from the nature of the contract, as I believe, or from neglect, which is possible, the cattle landed at Balacava are all so meagre and thin that very few of them are strong enough to support driving fifteen miles, as far as Baidar. I leave you to judge if meat from such poor animals has the nutriment or taste which is necessary to make it healthy and palatable to hungry soldiers.

The valley of Baidar, after one emerges from the confined portion of it in which Varnoutka lies, struck me as one of the most beautiful woodlands I had seen since leaving England. If you can suppose the vale of Llangollen expanded to five times its area you may conceive the breadth of this landscape. The finest old wooded undulation in the hills of Flintshire or Shropshire will not contain more picturesque trees for gnarl or colour; whilst at Baidar there is the additional feature of a varied herbage which casts rich tints of many colours into the underwood. Clusters of wild vines hang from large ash-trees, &c., which overshadow the road; the tall foxglove throws out leaves and flowers, whilst it sheds its seeds around; and the red berries of the deadly night shade vie in brilliancy with many others of similar hue depending from graceful shrubberies. In the midst of all this fly gaudy birds of various kinds—deep blue and yellow prevailing; and high up in the clouds eagles in pairs soar over the plain, and watch us miniature beings plodding along the dry and powdery roads.

Passing by the Kiosque of which some time since I sent you a Sketch, we missed the familiar faces and costumes of the Turks; in whose stead a small picket of Cuirassiers was standing by, no doubt on the watch to prevent the destruction of the little palace—a precaution not unnecessary, as we watched the long files of ox-carts, led by Tartars, and escorted by the brave but somewhat uncereceremonious Zouaves. One pleasant feature in the landscape was the occasional passage along the road of a Tartar family returning home after a forestal absence, caused by fears of ill-treatment from our soldiers. The men led the heavy buffalo waggons, whilst the children ran about the road or sat on the summit of the family goods; and the women, closely veiled in long strips of camel, shrunk away from our gaze, seeking protection behind the wheels of their lumbering vehicle.

In the plain, which we soon reached, we found how busy the foragers had been. Large masses of excellent hay covered the ground; and as we approached Baidar the Tartars were busy burying some of the dead cattle that lined the road.

A few broken bowers a little way on marked the spot where the 10th Hussars had been encamped; and on a gentle eminence behind them lay the village of Baidar, of which we could now plainly distinguish the hollow tiled roofs and two minarets. The street, for Baidar can boast but of one, was filled with Tartar men, women, and children, sitting or reclining, talking and selling. They were tall and well made, more powerful in build, apparently, than those of Eupatoria. Their women sometimes glided like spectres out of the high palisades round their hovels, by the sides of which crept the broad leaves of the pumpkin and vegetable marrow, surrounding small patches of luxuriant tobacco. Inside these gardens again were courtyards filled with hayricks, where mares with their young brood were driven round, in the approved Eastern fashion, over sheaves of barley to tread out the grain.

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, July 27.

Whatever may be the result of the final, and I cannot but believe near approaching, assault, there are symptoms of a determination that we shall not be caught unprepared for the following winter; and, in addition to the magazines of forage and provision which are found everywhere, a continuous transport of planks and beams for huts has taken place for the last week, which will enable all the soldiers to get comfortably housed. Huts of every description are daily rising in Balacava, which will be filled with stores, and economise the expense hitherto attending the use of store-ships in harbour. It will be scarcely credited at home that even at this moment there are numerous ships at Balacava and Kamiesch exclusively devoted to the preservation of stores. The question was asked a few days since by some of the authorities as to what might be the cost of erecting a shed capable of storing the same tonnage as a ship of 1200 tons; the answer was £180. There are ships of large size, such as the *Bucephalus*, the *Walmer Castle*, the *Baraguay d'Illiers*, the *Earl of Shaftesbury*, the *Star of the South*, the *Sir George Pollock*, the *Gertrude*, the *Arabia*, of an aggregate tonnage of 7000 tons, acting as store-ships, many of them having been in this species of service since October last, without moving either from Kamiesch or Balacava. These ships receive payment at the rate of £1 per ton per month, and their services as store-ships represent a yearly expense to the country of £283,000. A total expenditure in the first instance of £2000 would have paid for the erection of sheds to contain all that has been stored in these ships. Besides this, a considerable amount of labour would have been spared, which is daily expended in the transport from the carrying-ship to the store-ship of goods of every sort; an operation which, in addition to the expense it involves, is productive of great confusion; vast quantities of goods perishing either from being forgotten in damp places, or allowed to become covered over by goods less perishable than themselves. Three days ago a vacant house in Balacava was cleared of the rubbish and lumber that filled it; and beneath heaps of dirt, old wood, and stones, were found stores of havresacks, blue canteens, boots and shoes, augers, and tools of various kinds, nearly the whole of them rotten or rusted, and the remainder eaten by vermin. We may hope, now that General Filder is gone, and energetic men, as are Mr. Drake and Sir George Maclean, succeed, we shall not have a repetition of these disorders. As regards the harbour of Balacava, much remains to be desired in the management of it, as well as of the quays and roads; but when Admiral Fremantle—who is arrived, and is confined by the gout—recovers, something may, perhaps, be done.

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, July 28.

The night has been spent in heavy bombardment against the enemy, who continues to annoy our working parties. Notwithstanding all, how-

ere; it is obvious to the most undisciplined eye that we are making considerable progress, and the guns now open from the front intrenched works, the Greenhill and Gordon's being almost abandoned. Telegraphs to communicate with shipping are now ready on culminating points of the Camp.

We have had a few distressing incidents in Camp since I last wrote. A Serbian soldier, worried by a few of ours, who, I fear, were not sober, drew his hanger and killed one of them. Three Russian women, who had lived long near Kadikoi, were brutally treated and murdered by some Turks, who carried cruelty so far as to cut off the cheeks of their victims. There has been a pitched battle, too, between the Croats of Budaclava and the ill-disciplined men of the Land Transport Corps.

P.S.—I add a word to say that every preparation is made for a renewal of the assault, and yesterday all the field hospitals were cleared of sick of every kind, in view of the projected attack.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

DESPATCHES FROM GENERAL SIMPSON.

War Department, Aug. 6.

Lord Panmure has this day received a despatch and its enclosures, of which the following are copies, addressed to his Lordship by General Simpson, commanding her Majesty's forces in the East:—

Before Sebastopol, July 24.

My Lord,—I have the honour to enclose the weekly return from Dr. Hall of the state of the sick. Your Lordship will read with satisfaction the improved condition of the health of the army. I had entertained fears, from the very great heat of the last few days, that cholera would have assumed a more virulent form; but such has fortunately not been the case.

I have nothing to relate of importance respecting the siege. On the night of the 22nd the enemy opened a very heavy fire of musketry from the parapets of the Malakoff and adjacent works; but they did not attempt an attack. They opened a similar fire in the course of the night on the left of the French. I have every reason to believe they were apprehensive of an attack on the part of our allies, and for this reason opened the fire above described, which did no damage to either the works or soldiers.

The troops in the Baidar Valley have not altered their position from the date of the last time I had the honour to address you.

I return a list of the casualties to the 22nd instant.

I have, &c.,

JAMES SIMPSON.

The Lord Panmure, &c.

Lieutenant-General Commanding.

Before Sebastopol, July 21.

Sir,—In transmitting the enclosed weekly state of sick to the 21st inst., I have much pleasure in being able to inform you that the health of the army has continued to improve. There has been a trifling decrease in the number of admissions into the hospital, and a considerable diminution in the mortality.

The number of casualties admitted from the trenches during the present week has been greater than it was last; but the deaths have been fewer, which shows that the generality of wounds received must have been of a less serious character.

I have, &c.,

J. HALL.

To Lieutenant-General Simpson, Inspector-General of Hospitals.

Commanding-in-Chief.

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND PRIVATES, KILLED, AND WOUNDED, FROM THE 20TH TO THE 22ND JULY, 1855, INCLUSIVE.

KILLED.

July 20.—Royal Artillery: Gunner Alexander Greer. July 21.—3rd Foot: Private Anthony Savell. 47th: Privates Peter James, John O'Donnell. 88th: Private Thomas White. Royal Sappers and Miners: Private Nathaniel Gillard. July 22.—18th Foot: Private John Reeves. 23rd: Private James Bennett. 25th: Private James Dogwell. 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade: Private John Rogers.

WOUNDED.

July 20th.—1st Battalion of Coldstream Guards: Private James Scott, slightly; 14th Foot: Privates James Barnwell, dangerously; Patrick Riley, severely; 31st: Sergeant Sam. Lee, slightly; Private John Mooney, slightly. 30th: Lance-Sergeant Patrick Terley, slightly. Privates Cornelius McCarthy, slightly; Joseph Swates, severely. 41st: Private John Hughes, severely. 42nd: Privates D. McFougall, dangerously; A. McFarlane, severely; Robert Miller, slightly; William Bennie, slightly. 47th: Privates James O'Hara, Thomas Mulcahy, slightly. 49th: Privates Patrick Keane, dangerously; John White, slightly. 62nd: Private Michael Birmingham, slightly. 72nd: Privates James Murray, William White, severely. 63rd: Privates James Patterson, severely; James Fairbro, slightly. 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade: Private John Whiting, slightly. 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade: Private James Thorneley, slightly; Edward Dwyer, John Corran, severely. July 21.—2nd Battalion, 1st Foot: Privates James Mulvaney, Patrick Comasky, Thomas Toner, Joseph Jordan, slightly. 4th: Private William McKennie, slightly. 7th: Privates James Boland, severely; John Nathan, dangerously; William Scott, severely. 9th: Private Peter Mulvaney, slightly. 21st: Private Charles Wilkins, slightly. 23rd: Privates George Narky, Joseph Labon, severely. 30th: Corporal Donald McLea, slightly. 32nd: Private John McDermott, slightly. 31st: Drummer William Dunn, dangerously; Private James Weatherall, slightly. 34th: Private Dennis McCarthy, slightly. 47th: Private William Eyre, slightly. 54th: Privates Robert Anderson, severely; John Vincent, slightly. 57th: Lance-Corporal Henry McCarthy, severely. 62nd: Privates John Kiddle, severely; Donald McGibbon, slightly. 69th: Sergeant John Flaherty, severely. Privates James Murray, dangerously; Edwin Pollard, James Nevill, severely; William Brown, slightly. 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade: Private John Wren, severely. 2nd Battalion: Privates J. Bradshaw, Joseph Canty, slightly. July 22.—9th Foot: Private Timothy Clifford, severely. 18th: Private William Fallon, severely. 19th: Private Joseph Thom, slightly. 23rd: Corporal William Watts, severely. Royal Sappers and Miners: Colour-Sergeant A. McLeod, slightly.

War Department, August 3.

Lord Panmure has this day received a despatch and its enclosures, of which the following are copies, addressed to his Lordship by General Simpson, Commanding her Majesty's forces in the East:—

Before Sebastopol, July 23.

My Lord,—Since my despatch of the 21st instant I have nothing of importance to relate to you. We continue to strengthen and improve our advanced works, which are now so close to the enemy's defences, that I regret to say our casualties are necessarily considerable.

The enemy exhibit great activity in adding to and improving their defences, and the conveyance of large military stores from the north to the south side is increasing.

I beg to transmit the list of casualties to the 26th inst., and the confidential fortnight reports of the Generals of Division and Brigade.

The cholera has nearly ceased in the ranks of the Army.

I have, &c.,

JAMES SIMPSON.

The Lord Panmure, &c., &c.

Lieutenant-General Commanding.

DESPATCHES FROM ADMIRAL DUNDAS.

Admiralty, August 6, 1855.

A despatch, of which the enclosed is a copy, has this day been received from Rear-Admiral the Hon. R. S. Dundas, C.B., the Commander-in-Chief of her Majesty's ships and vessels in the Baltic:—

Duke of Wellington, at Nargen, July 30, 1855.

Sir,—I beg you will be pleased to acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that, having received on the 21st instant, from Captain Yelverton, of her Majesty's ship *Arrogant*, information which appeared to render it desirable that he should again examine the south-western shores of the Island of Kotka, I took immediate measures to strengthen the squadron under his orders by the addition of four gun-boats, to be detached from off Cronstadt, by Rear-Admiral Baines, together with the addition of four mortar-vessels from hence, which he had hoped to be able to employ.

I have much satisfaction in transmitting for their Lordships' information the enclosed report of proceedings of Captain Yelverton, who, with the squadron under his orders, has again succeeded in completing the destruction of buildings and military stores to a considerable extent on the Island of Kotka; and I beg once more to express my entire approbation of the manner in which he has executed the service entrusted to him, and of the conduct of the officers and men employed on the occasion.

I am happy in having this opportunity to recommend to the favourable notice of their Lordships the conduct of Mr. George Giles, master of the *Arrogant*, and Mr. Macfarlane, the master of the *Magicienne*, who have now been constantly employed in those ships in the various services which I have recently had occasion to report.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

R. S. DUNDAS.

Rear-Admiral and Commander-in-Chief.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

Her Majesty's ship *Arrogant*, off the mouth of the Kymene, July 28.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that very early on the morning of the 26th I was joined, off the Island of Hogland, by the *Cossack* and *Magicienne*, bringing with them the mortar-vessels *Prompt*, *Pickle*, *Rocket*, and *Blazer*. I stood immediately to the northward, leaving the *Ruby* to bring on the gun-boats, which were not then in sight. They joined at noon; and at two p.m. we all anchored off Fort Rotsenholm.

As the safety of our expedition rested chiefly on our investing and holding the entire possession of the fortified Island of Kotka, I determined upon taking it at once. Accordingly, I anchored the mortar-vessels out of range, and leaving two gun-boats to look after them, I proceeded with the rest of the vessels to the westward of Kotka, for the purpose of destroying the bridge, so as to cut off the retreat of the garrison, and prevent reinforcements from the mainland. Captain Vanstaaf, of the *Magicienne*, with his accustomed zeal and activity, directed his way at once through the shoals, and destroyed the bridge. As soon as all the vessels had anchored, so as to command the

great military road leading from the fort of Hogfors Holm, and also the channel dividing the island from the main, I landed all the marines under command of Captain S. N. Lowder, R.M., with Lieutenant George D. Dowell, R.M.A., and Lieutenants H. C. Mudge and P. R. Holmes, R.M., who took possession without being opposed, as the garrison (no doubt apprised of our coming by the telegraphs along the coast) had very recently evacuated, leaving behind them a large amount of military stores, which have since been burnt.

I beg to inclose a list of all the Crown property destroyed by Captain Lowder, including barracks, magazines, ordnance-stores, storehouses, stables, guard-houses, and other Government buildings, with an immense amount of timber intended for building and other military purposes.

The following morning I weighed, leaving Captain Fanshawe, with the *Cossack*, in charge of this most important point, which required the utmost care and attention, as the enemy on several occasions threw out reconnoitring parties, as if inclined to attempt the recovery of the island.

I feel it due to Mr. George Giles, master of this ship, and Mr. George A. Macfarlane, master of the *Magicienne*, to mention the zeal and attention with which they have sounded and buoyed, night and day, the intricate channels of this coast, enabling me (without the assistance of pilots) to get into many places where our presence was least expected.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

H. R. YELVERTON, Captain.

P.S. Owing to a change of wind to the eastward, I regret to say that the village unfortunately caught fire from some Government buildings, and I fear much injury was done to it.

It is, however, a source of congratulation to be able to add that the fine church on the island sustained no damage whatever, owing to the precautions that were immediately taken to save it.

H. R. YELVERTON, Captain.

Rear-Admiral the Hon. R. S. Dundas, C.B., Commander-in-Chief.

RETURN OF BUILDINGS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT PROPERTY DESTROYED ON THE ISLAND OF KOTKA, 26TH JULY, 1855.

Barracks (four in number).—1. Cavalry barracks, with stabling for 160 horses, bomb-proof magazine, and range of stone-casemated stores, containing a large quantity of sponge, rammers, hand-carts, spikes, &c. 2. Infantry barracks for 300 men, detached range of officers' quarters, stables, cooking houses, and clothing stores. 3. Infantry barracks for 200 men; officers' quarters and other buildings in an unfinished state. 4. Cavalry barracks and stabling for 50 horses.

Magazines (four in number).—1. A large brick casemated magazine in two stories, roofed with sheet iron, and surrounded with a high wall; fitted to contain 3500 barrels. 2. Brick casemate, fitted to contain 1100 barrels; a small laboratory close to it. 3 and 4. Stone casemates, roofed with iron, fitted to contain 1200 barrels each.

Guard-houses, Detached Buildings (four in number).—1. At the bridge head. 2. At the telegraph station. 3. In front of Governor's house. 4. Adjoining cavalry barracks.

Stores detached (four in number).—1. Large stone casemate, used for keeping oil, tar, &c., and containing a quantity of casks. 2. Large stone building full of miscellaneous military stores. 3. Wooden store, with stone casemate attached, containing sleighs, water-carts, and buckets for extinguishing fire; lanterns, tent-poles, and pickets, stoves, and iron tubing. 4. Large forage barn, stone, with iron roof, inclosing three sides of an area of 150 feet, containing sleighs, brooms, and other stable stores.

Other buildings (six in number).—1. Commandant's or Governor's residence, with offices and out-buildings. 2. Block of buildings used as field officers' quarters, stabling, and offices. 3. Telegraph station, look-out house, and flag-staff. 4 and 5. Solid brick buildings (without fittings), intended to be used as block-houses, or quarters for artillerymen, or troops stationed at the round battery on the south point. 6. Extensive brick manufactory, with sheds and implements.

Miscellaneous.—Some workshops, a quantity of squared timber and stacks of staves prepared for manufacturing handspikes, tent-poles, sponge-staves, and several thousand loads of cut firewood. H. R. YELVERTON, Captain.

NAVAL AND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

ROYAL VISIT TO HASLAR.—Her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert embarked on board the *Fairy* at four o'clock on Saturday afternoon, and went over to Haslar Hospital, to visit the sick and wounded seamen and marines staying there, who have come home from the trenches and the fleet at Sebastopol. Her Majesty landed at Haslar-pier, in the State barge, and was received by the Commander-in-Chief, Vice-Admiral Sir J. J. Cochrane, Captain Daeres, Superintendent, &c. Her Majesty made a strict inquiry into the cases of the different men whom she inspected, and was, apparently, much interested in their condition and progress. After the inspection the Queen and the Prince returned to Osborne.

The steam-batteries *Meteor* and *Glatton*, Captains Seymour and Cumming, arrived at Spithead on Monday from the Nore, and remain there. They were inspected on the afternoon of Monday by Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane, K.C.B., Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth.

The *Union* sailing-transport has left Woolwich for the Black Sea; and the *Arthur Gordon* screw-transport has sailed for the same destination, having on board a quantity of harness for the Mounted Staff Corps, and several bales of sandbags, with a number of flannel bags or bursters for the purpose of filling shells.

Monday being the anniversary of his Royal Highness Prince Alfred's birthday, and the Court being within the precincts of the port, a general Royal salute was fired at noon from the fleet at Portsmouth in honour of the day; and the usual feat, in which all the officers and men of the Royal yachts participated, took place as heretofore at Osborne.

The screw-steamer *Emu* is ordered to be in readiness to embark on the 14th inst., at Liverpool, 23 officers and about 600 men of the 51st Regiment, for Malta; and the *Andes* screw-steamer, on the same day, 8 officers and 300 men of the 51st Foot; 9 officers and 100 men of the 3rd; 4 officers and 100 men of the 31st; and 10 officers and 200 men of the 48th.

The *Shipjack* and the *Seagull* gun-boats, of the burden of 233 tons each, arrived at Woolwich on Saturday from Northfleet. The *Seagull* will be prepared for sea in Woolwich Dockyard. These are the first of a series of that class of boats shortly expected there.

The Government are making active preparations for again wintering the army in the Crimea. The following firms have just entered into contracts to supply about 1000 huts for berthing the troops, which are to be ready for shipment within one month from the present time:—Mr. Luke Camwell, of Portsmouth; Messrs. Cubitt and Co., Hayward and Nixon, Myers, W. Piper, Jackson, Locke and Nesham, and Lucas Brothers, of London; Edmund Smith, of Woolwich; and Eassie, of Gloucester.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR FREDERIC SMITH, K.H., Commanding Royal Engineer in the south-west district, leaves Portsmouth garrison (where he has been stationed upwards of three years) in a few days for Aldershot, where he will have the post of Resident Commanding Royal Engineer—and, as at Chatham, Instructor-General of Field Fortifications.

The effectives (rank and file) of the Irish militia regiments amounted on the 1st of July to 16,299; and the regimental and county quota and establishment to 31,349. The quota of volunteers into the Line required was 4353; and the number of volunteers supplied is 3457. The corps that ought to have supplied volunteers and have not done so are the Armagh Artillery, the Donegal Artillery, the North Mayo, the Sligo, the Tyrone Artillery, and the Waterford Artillery.

The Channel Islands are about to be put on the war establishment. Guernsey and Jersey will in consequence be severally made a Major-General's command, instead of being as at present the command of a Staff-Colonel. This alteration will in each case make the office of Lieutenant-Governor more important and more valuable, as a personal staff, with increased allowances, will be attached to the command.

THE OFFICERS OF THE "TIGER."—The thirteen British naval officers and midshipmen belonging to the unfortunate *Tiger*, who were not so lucky as their First Lieutenant to be set at liberty and write a book on Russia, but were detained prisoners of war, have at length also been liberated, and arrived at Stettin last week, via Dantzic, on their way to England. They have been exchanged against a similar number of Russian officers of equal grades, and were accompanied to the frontiers of Prussia, where they were set at liberty, by a picket of Cossacks. They were prisoners of war for five months, and were obliged to swear by the honour of their swords to remain inactive and take no part in the war for seven months more. On their arrival at Stettin, twelve of these gentlemen proceeded on immediately to Berlin for England. Lieutenant Seymour was the only one of the party who preferred resting a day from the fatigues of his journey before returning home.

SAILORS' INSTITUTE, SHADWELL.—His Royal Highness Prince Albert, having been solicited by the directors of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society to lay the foundation-stone of this building, has been graciously pleased to express his cordial approval of the undertaking, and, although unable to comply with the request, has kindly forwarded the sum of £20 towards the object. The building fund has now reached £2000.

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

PEOPLE seem to have little to talk about just now, except the important question that annually agitates the English mind towards July and August—namely, to what watering-place they shall go to be made uncomfortable for a month or six weeks. One does not speak of Continental tourists, with their couriers' bags, Handbook of French Conversation, and limited numismatic information, but of the true Briton, who "goes to the sea-side" as he has done for the last thirty years. His choice of places is small; he clings to the mouth of the Thames; and when you have named Herne Bay, Southend, Margate, Broadstairs, and Ramsgate, the cinque ports of the Londoner, you have nearly exhausted his repertoire. Some of these are already nearly as full as they can be, even allowing for the caoutchouc elasticity of marine lodgings, and the helplessness with which a London matron takes possession of a stifling closet, as a bed-room for a whole group of her children, though into a similar room in town the excellent lady would not insert the boy in buttons. And in another fortnight the metropolitan middle class will be "out of town."

Now commences the season of round hats, one-horse flies, bathing-machines, old novels, shrimps, *mal de mer*, German bands, yellow slippers, ruffling, and freckles. Now do lean and greedy landladies demand and receive in a fortnight the rent they themselves pay for a year. Now do donkeys refuse to recognise the beneficent arrangements of the universe, and especially wonder why children were created. Now do young ladies dabble about in wet flannel, chill themselves to blueness in the sea, linger additional half-hours over their toilets in the machines, and finally marvel why bathing does not invigorate them. Now—but why should one write down a catalogue raisonné of what has been going on with clockwork regularity for the last half-century? Go to sleep at a watering-place—let your *siesta* be as long as that of the Beauty in the "Fairy Tale"—and when you wake a hundred years later you will

See the children sporting on the shore,
And the wide waters rolling evermore.

The regularity, indeed, with which another sort of family Briton at the sea-side conducts himself is of a piece with his ordinary walk and conversation. He has no idea of "falling into lax and slovenly ways because they happen to be out of town. He and the boys bathe before breakfast—that meal must be eaten punctually—the boys will then be good enough to take their books for two hours, while mamma arranges for the day, and the girls practise. The telescope may be got out, however (for we are on pleasure), if a strange sail be seen; and if the flag is made out to be Dutch, Charles will be required to state when Belgium and Holland were separated, and why, and the names of the reigning monarchs of both countries; and if it be American, Maria will be desired to give us the names of the United States, distinguishing between the slave States and the free. A short walk to the library, to see the papers, will occupy the time until lunch; and that—punctual as breakfast—being dispatched, the afternoon's pleasure is taken with due order and decorum: yesterday it was a sail, to-morrow it will be a drive; therefore, to-day, let it be a ride, so that a regular rotation of crops of amusement be preserved. Home to dinner. A little playing by the girls, or perhaps the reading aloud of the second volume of "Twaddle's Travels in Timbuctoo" (from the Reading Society, and covered with white cartridge-paper) occupies the evening; the footsteps of the traveller are followed on his own map by George, who reads, and by Charles and Maria in the atlas; and then come Seltzer-water and bed-room candles. And as it was to day, so it will be, *mutatis mutandis*, to-morrow; and the whole party will return to town on the day arranged when they left, and will be improved in health, and otherwise, by this rational and orderly sojourn at the sea. Nothing to laugh at, quite the contrary; but some people on the Continent, sometimes John Bull and family themselves, manage things differently when "out a-pleasuring."

There is a singular case of alleged slow poisoning now under investigation. A gentleman, occupying a respectable position, is charged with having destroyed his wife by the administration of continuous, but minute, doses of arsenic; and her medical attendants testify to their suspicions, and to their having watched the process, as it were, but to having been compelled, from fear of disturbing their patient's mind, from interference. The story has a subdued but terrible character—reminding one of the proceedings of the Judge's wife in "Monte Christo." Some of the proofs seem very strong; but it must not be forgotten that there is a theory touching arsenic, which, if tenable, overthrows many chemical tests upon which reliance is generally placed.

The Crystal Palace report reads healthily and well. It seems that when Sir Joseph Paxton has completed his wonders of water-working he retires from active management of the Palace, but is retained in a position analogous to that of consulting engineer. He gives a favourable account of the progress of the grander works towards completion. About a million and a quarter is the return of visitors to the Palace, of whom about seventy thousand have been children. When the approach is rendered more easy, these returns, and especially the proportion of children, will marvellously vary. At present the difficult part of the journey is to London-bridge; and, indeed, this may not be a bad opportunity to record one's protest against the existing state of the City, which appears to have set itself against all travelling. The "blocks" are now so frequent that no one in his senses, and unless he has hours before him, takes a vehicle into the great City thoroughfares. One sees a load of timber keep three-quarters of a mile of cabs, carriages, carts, &c., at a foot-pace for half an hour. But the abominable railway-vans are the grand nuisance, and with their powerful horses and colossal size they defy all interference or interposition, as Mr. Leech has put it,—"I know nothing of right side or wrong side—you get out of my way, if you don't want to be crushed." Why do not the Fathers of the City, instead of going out of town to gormandise, and scandalise reporters with "shocking bad English," sit down and devise a code of laws required by the increased traffic of London, compel all slow and heavy vehicles to take by-streets, or restrict them to certain hours? If the Mayor can make arrangements (which he has done, and they work well) on London-bridge, surely the Aldermen, who preside over the destinies of the City, can imitate him in council. Why can they not show themselves of some earthly use?

CONDITION OF ITALY.—The *Indépendance Belge* reports letters from Italy, which state that the French Government has lately presented to the Papal Government new remarks on the indispensable necessity of a remedy, by means of reforms, for the disorder which reigns in the administration of the Roman States. On the receipt of the despatch, communicated by M. de Rignyval to Cardinal Antonelli, two congregations of Cardinals were held—but the result was negative. The Court of Rome could not make any concession, and refused, above all, the secularisation of the Administration, "the most urgent and desirable of all the reforms." The same letters speak of a project of debarkation on one of the points of the Roman territory prepared by the partisans of Mazzini, but frustrated by the French Government, which gave information to the Roman authorities. It is said that in a secret Consistory, on the 26th of July, the Pope intended to have nominated the Patriarch of Constantinople; but France and Austria supported different candidates, and his Holiness, therefore, adjourned the nomination. It is said that some disorders have taken place at Ancona, causing the town to be placed in a state of siege.

GRAND FIELD DAY OF THE RIFLE CORPS AT TORQUAY.

A GENERAL muster of the South Devon Rifle Battalion took place on the 25th ult., when a very gratifying proof was afforded of the interest taken in the progress of this corps by all classes. The announcement that a sham fight would form part of the proceedings of the day drew a very large influx of visitors to the town.

Between nine and ten o'clock the bugle call summoned the gallant members of the Battalion to their "alarm post," and by the latter hour between



LAUNCH OF "THE ARAXES" AT BRISTOL.

eighty and ninety were assembled, under the command of Captain and Adjutant Moore.

Having formed into three divisions, the members (preceded by the subscription band) marched to the New-road. Here the whole battalion contested for six prizes (presented by the Torquay Company). Three iron targets, on rafts, had been moored in the bay, at five hundred yards from the sea-wall, at which five rounds per man were fired; and Colonel Bentham was appointed the umpire. The first round was not particularly accurate—several gentlemen who are recognised as crack shots in private practice not being so exact in their aims as on ordinary occasions. The subsequent rounds were very closely fired; and several competent judges (naval and military officers) who were present unanimously declared that it would have been impossible for the men in any boat to have escaped destruction by the fire. Finally, twelve of the best shots were told off; the contest then became exceedingly interesting and exciting. The shots were most accurate, and repeatedly elicited the loud approbation of the spectators. The divisions were then formed in line, and extended in skirmishing order. Fire was opened upon a floating target at 900 yards distance; and although we are not aware whether it was actually struck, the balls pitched in very close proximity to the mark even at that great distance, and the thick torrent of shot which fell around it converted the sea into a sheet of foam. Nearer marks were afterwards indiscriminately fired at, with an effect showing at once the power of this formidable weapon and the practised skill of the marksmen. On the bugle signal to "cease fire" the divisions closed and marched to the Torre Abbey grounds.

Refreshments were then served in the spacious marquee, after which the sham-fight commenced. Two companies were formed, and an advanced guard was thrown out from the left, which proceeded up the centre

of the field, on the north-east of Torre Abbey. It was suddenly received by a smart fire from an unseen foe in a rifle-pit, surrounding a masked battery of nine guns. The main body, covered by skirmishers, then advanced in line, and (the skirmishers being withdrawn) commenced file-firing. At this moment the guns of the redoubt were unmasked and opened fire, and the line retired by files from the right of divisions, covered by the skirmishers. Having retired under cover, firing ceased on both sides, and the Rifles took up a new position. The direct approach to the redoubt being impracticable, a few skirmishers were detached to the left; and the main body, still under cover, proceeded to the wood on the right. A central division (commanded by Captain Pearson) formed in skirmishing order, flanking the redoubt, whilst Company No. 1 (led by Captain Rodway) passing in its rear, occupied ground in a field behind the redoubt. Skirmishers were then thrown from the centre division, under cover of whose fire Company No. 1 formed a column of attack and charged across the ditch on the north side into the redoubt, the detached parties at first thrown out, but afterwards recalled, entering simultaneously on the west. The red flag on the ensign staff of the redoubt was lowered, and the union-jack hoisted in its stead, amidst three hearty cheers for the Queen; the band appropriately playing the National Anthem. The excitement which the whole of this excellently-planned scheme created it would be difficult to describe. The skill and rapidity with which the manoeuvres were performed elicited the universal and enthusiastic approbation of the thousands of spectators who crowded the adjacent grounds. To complete the success of the arrangements, not a single "casualty" occurred. The corps having re-formed, were marched back through the town to the place of rendezvous, where the prizes were distributed to the successful competitors, and the members dismissed.

The accompanying illustration is from a spirited charcoal drawing taken on the spot by De Pomeroy.

LAUNCH OF THE "ARAXES."

This fine vessel was launched on the 7th ult., from the Clifton Marine Engine and Iron Shipbuilding Works of Messrs. Stothert and Frupp, Bristol. She is the third of this class built by Messrs. Stothert and Co., for Messrs. James Moss and Co., Liverpool, and is intended for the Mediterranean trade.

The *Araxes* is 1272 tons, builder's measurement; length between perpendiculars, 250 ft.; length over all, 275 ft.; breadth of beam, 32 ft. 2½ in.; depth of hold, 21 ft. 4 in.; length of poop deck, 62 ft. She is built in the most substantial manner, and is fitted with all the latest improvements. She has a spacious saloon and ladies' cabin; captain's and chief officers' cabins; steward's pantry; six state-rooms opening into the saloon, each having two sleeping-berths, a sofa, and all fittings of the best description; at the stern a smoking room opening into saloon, fitted with sofas and every convenience requisite for the comfort of passengers. A deck-house is fitted amidships for the accommodation of engineers and subaltern officers. The topgallant fore-castle is fitted with berths for the crew, carpenters, boatswains; also storerooms. Underneath are further storerooms, and tanks to hold about 5000 gallons of water. She will carry, besides engines and boiler, coal, &c., about 1100 tons of cargo. Her engines, manufactured by Messrs. Stothert and Co., are of 250-horse power collectively, vibrating cylinders, placed vertically underneath the shaft, and making sixty revolutions per minute. Her anticipated speed will be about eleven knots.



GRAND FIELD-DAY OF THE RIFLE CORPS AT TORQUAY.

MEETING OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND, AT CARLISLE.



THE COURT-HOUSES, CARLISLE, AND TRIUMPHAL ARCH.

THE seventeenth annual meeting of this Society, which was held in Carlisle this year, commenced on Thursday, the 19th ult.; but the great influx of visitors did not begin till the following Wednesday. The preparations made for the occasion were of the usual description.

On entering Carlisle by any of the railway stations, the visitor's attention was attracted by triumphal arches of evergreens and flowers thrown across the roads in honour of the meeting of the Agricultural Society; and a number of the houses were appropriately decorated with flags, wreaths, and evergreens, in great profusion.

The dinner took place on Thursday, the 26th ult.—W. Miles, Esq., as President for the year, in the chair: supported by the Mayor of Carlisle (Robert Ferguson, Esq.), the Duke of Cleveland, Viscount Dillon, Lord Berners, Lord Wynford, Colonel Lowther, M.P., W. Marshall, Esq., M.P.; Baron Ricasoli, of Tuscany; Sir J. Heron Maxwell, Sir John Maxwell, the Very Rev. the Dean of Carlisle, M. De la Trehonnais, of Paris; the Hon. C. Howard, M.P., Colonel Rushout, M.P., Mr. P. J. Dixon, Mr. Nathorn, Mr. G. H. Head, Mr. E. W. Hassell, Mr. Buller, Chairman of the Bath and

Exeter Railway Company; Mr. W. Woods, Chairman of the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway Company; Mr. G. W. Hartley, Chairman of the Maryport Railway Company; Archdeacon Sandford, Professor Way, and Professor Simonds. The vice-chair was filled by Colonel Chaloner; and near him were Mr. Frewen, M.P.; Mr. Child, M.P.; Mr. Kendall, M.P.; Rev. H. Lowther, Mr. C. Stewart, Captain Ball, Mr. Van Bosch, of Rotterdam; Mr. J. Nanson, Town Clerk of Carlisle, and Mr. George Smith. There were also present Sir James Graham, Bart., M.P.; Hon. Mr. Coke, Sir John Ogilvy, Bart.; Sir P. Montague, Bart.; Sir Stafford H. Northcote, Bart., M.P.; Sir T. Sebright, Bart.; Sir Pierce Morton, Sir Alexander Macdonald, Major Salmund, Mr. Dyke Acland, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Howard, of Grey-stoke, Mr. Howard, of Corby, Mr. Leopold Cust, Mr. Meredith, Mr. Wren Hoskins, Mr. Mechi, Mr. Jonas Webb, Mr. Fisher Hobbs, Mr. Brandreth Gibbs, Mr. Aitcheson, and a host of eminent agriculturists: from far and near, whom, in the crowded state of the room it was impossible to identify.

The competition this year in the three most prominent and most favourite breeds of cattle was numerically about an average one. A more

splendid show of Short-horns we believe we never saw—so uniformly good (with one or two exceptions only), and denoting not only all that beauty or colour, form, and feature which all so much admire and love to see, but those better and more substantial qualities—a large, rotund, proportionate frame, evidencing a tendency or capacity to produce plenty of good lean flesh, and of the prime quality, as well as to lay on, as they do, such enormous quantities of fat. This is as it should be: who can dine from off fat meat! We are glad to notice such a feature at this meeting. We think more attention is given to the breeding of animals of heavier frame, and denoting a tendency or propensity to produce good lean flesh, than heretofore. For the public good, we beg most earnestly still closer attention to this principle in breeding, in every class.

The Hereford classes are in average number; we think, also, in average quality. We have never seen a much better Hereford bull than Lord Berwick's; and many other animals in these classes possess extraordinary merit. If they do not equal the Short-horns as a breed of cattle

(Continued on page 188.)



MEETING OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND, AT CARLISLE.—GENERAL VIEW.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—SATURDAY, AUG. 4.

The Exchequer Bills (£7,000,000) Bill, the Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill, and the Militia Pay Bill were severally read a second time, and ordered to be committed on Monday.

The Public Health Act (1854) Continuance and Amendment Bill, and the Dwellings for Labouring Classes Bill, were read a third time and passed.

The Report on the Diseases Prevention Bill was received, and the bill was ordered to be read a third time on Monday.

The Burials Bill was passed through Committee, and the report was ordered to be received on Monday.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

THE ROYAL MESSAGE.

The Queen's message with respect to the maintenance of the war was considered and responded to in the affirmative without remark.

SALE OF BEER BILL.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE moved the suspension of their Lordships' Standing Orders, that the Sale of Beer Bill might be produced with as a measure of urgency.

Some discussion ensued, followed by a division, which affirmed the motion by a majority of 25 to 16.

The bill was then read a second time.

TURKISH LOAN BILL.

On the order of the day for going into Committee on the Turkish Loan Bill.

Lord ST. LEONARDS, after commenting at some length on the negotiations at Vienna, referred to the Turkish treaty, and said it appeared to him that from the uncertainty of the translation of the treaty the Queen was jointly and severally liable for the amount of the loan, while the Emperor of France was only jointly liable.

After some observations from the Earl of CLARENDON and the LORD CHANCELLOR, the bill passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL.

On the order of the day for the third reading of the Criminal Justice Bill.

Mr. T. CHAMBERS denounced the bill as the worst that ever received the sanction of the Legislature, being unconstitutional in principle, and a still further encroachment on the system of trial by jury.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL defended the bill, which would be extremely beneficial to the accused parties, by saving them from long imprisonment before trial; and he denied that it was at all unconstitutional, as no one could be brought within its operation without his own consent.

After some discussion the bill was read a third time.

ROYAL SOCIETY.

Lord PALMERSTON stated that it was the intention of the Government to grant a sum out of the Civil Contingency Grant for the use of the Royal Society; and next Session he would place for the like purpose a sum of £1000 on the Civil Service Estimates.

The Noble Lord also stated that it was the intention to proceed with the Cambridge University Bill during the present Session.

THE AUSTRIANS IN ITALY.

Lord J. RUSSELL gave notice of his intention to call the attention of the House to the state of Italy, and the occupation of her territory by foreign troops.

CHARITABLE TRUSTS BILL.

On the order of the day for the House going into Committee on the Charitable Trusts Bill.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL pointed out the necessity for the changes proposed by the bill, and said it was imperative that the powers of the Commissioners should be extended, in order to enable them to exercise a proper control over the management of charities. The Commissioners, he said, were entitled to public confidence, and the extension of powers proposed to be conferred on them might safely be assented to.

Mr. KNIGHT moved, as an amendment, that the bill be committed that day three months. He did not object to extending the powers of the Commissioners, but he did object to give them such enormous powers as were proposed by this bill to be conferred. The board at present was an inspecting and remedial one, but this bill proposed to give them absolute power and control. To such a change the House ought not to consent at that late period of the Session.

Sir W. JOLIFFE seconded the amendment, and urged the impossibility of giving adequate consideration to a measure of such importance in the very last week of the Session.

Mr. MICHELL was of opinion that the bill did not go sufficiently far.

Mr. A. FELLATT thought the House ought to pause before granting the extraordinary powers which the bill would confer upon the Commissioners.

Sir G. GREY defended the measure from the objections urged against it. Mr. CAIRNS thought such powers should only be conferred on the Commissioners as part of a well-considered scheme, one condition of which should be that their administrative functions should be exercised in public. He strongly recommended that the bill should be abandoned for the present Session.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said, that however near they might be to the close of the Session, they should make the most of the time in order to pass a bill of such importance; and he reminded those who raised objections to it that every one of its provisions were recommended by a Select Committee of the House.

After some discussion, in which Mr. Henley, Lord Galtway, Sir W. Heathcote, and Mr. Malins took part.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said, that if it was resolved to contest the bill clause by clause, he must be content to take as much of it as he could get; and, although very reluctantly, he must in that case give up the judicial portion of the bill.

After some observations from Mr. WIGRAM and Lord PALMERSTON, the House went into Committee on the bill, and the discussion of its details occupied the remainder of the evening.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—TUESDAY.

LIMITED LIABILITY BILL.

Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY moved the suspension of the Standing Orders, for the purpose of allowing the Limited Liability Bill to pass during the present Session.

A preliminary discussion, turning chiefly upon the question of urgency, but in which the merits of the bill itself were collaterally touched upon, was prosecuted at considerable length: Lord Redesdale advocating a stringent observance of the Standing Orders, in which he was followed by Lord Grey, Lord St. Leonards, and Lord Montague; while the Marquis of Clanricarde, Earl Granville, and the Lord Chancellor insisted on the expediency of going on with the bill.

On a division the motion for suspending the Standing Orders was carried by 38 contents to 14 non-contents—24.

The discussion was then renewed upon the motion for the second reading of the bill, whose principle Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY explained and defended at some length.

Some other Peers having spoken, the bill was read a second time.

The Sale of Beer Bill went through Committee.

The Turkish Loan Bill was read a third time and passed.

The Ordnance Board Bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—TUESDAY.

PROSPECTS OF THE WAR.—CONDITION OF ITALY.

In the early sitting of the House, on the motion for the third reading of the Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill.

Lord J. RUSSELL said there never was a Government charged with a greater amount of responsibility than that which attached to the present Ministry. The immense draught upon the finances of the country was a most important subject for consideration, and the prospects of the war called for the most serious attention. There could be no doubt but our navy was in a most efficient condition; but the enemy was not disposed to try our strength on salt water. In the Baltic as yet nothing very considerable had been effected; while in the Black Sea matters were a threatening aspect; and so far as related to the invasion of the Asiatic frontier of Turkey, no sufficient force had been sent to repel the enemy. These points afforded no prospect of peace; and they must look to the large army in the Crimea for any chance of a solution of the difficulty. There, however, Russia was pouring in large armies; and, without imputing blame to any one, it became matter of serious consideration whether our object could be effected without immediate and expensive preparations for the next campaign.

With regard to the propositions for peace (said the noble Lord) I will say a few words; not, however, intending thereby to revive the discussion of the other evening, or to say anything with reference to the questions of counterpoise or limitation, or any other scheme by which the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea may be accomplished, but with the view simply of speaking as to our future prospects. With regard to myself, though I acquiesce in the decision of my noble friend at the head of foreign affairs, who thought that the despatches containing the account of my proceedings at Vienna ought not to be produced, because it would not be of advantage to the public service, still I cannot but wish that the despatches were produced, and that Parliament and the public were able to see the despatches containing the account of my proceedings at Vienna—to see in those despatches, without any garbling or omissions, what I have done. But with respect to the future, this very serious question arises, because it will be observed that the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna—one of the most intelligent persons I ever met with, and well acquainted with European policy and the interests of his own country—was perfectly satisfied with

the terms proposed by Austria. But admitting that the terms proposed were not considered to offer a sufficient security, and that the war is to be carried on, not for the security of Turkey, but for the maintenance of the military and naval reputation of France and Great Britain, then the position of this country and of France is very much changed. No doubt we may continue the war without Turkey; but then we must no longer think of loans as an assistance to Turkey, but we must resort to subsidies, and to a large amount, to enable Turkey to meet the expenses of the contest. That appears to me to be the inevitable result. If the Turkish Government be of opinion at any future time that sufficient terms are offered, then, I say, with regard to the Emperor of the French, who has proved himself not only a faithful ally, but a most prudent and just ally, I should be disposed to place the utmost confidence in his opinion with regard to any negotiations for peace. If such an opportunity should arise, I hope, on the one hand, that while Government will refuse to accept any terms they do not think sufficient for their purpose, on the other hand I hope they will not continue the war a moment longer after those purposes are attained for which it was commenced.

He now came to the observations of which he had given notice respecting the state of Italy. The King of Sardinia had sent to the Crimea some of the best troops that Europe could boast of, and he must expect in return the moral support of France and England to a cause he had much at heart—viz., the general improvement of Italy, and that some check should be given to the oppressions carried on by the Governments of the Papal States and the kingdom of Naples. In the latter State the best men had been sacrificed, and the representations of the British Government had failed to procure the slightest clemency. In Tuscany, also, a sort of religious persecution prevailed, which was a disgrace to a civilised Government. All this occurred while one part of the States of the Church was occupied by an Austrian army, and the capital itself by the troops of France. There could, therefore, be nothing like independence on the part of the Papal Government, for it must be dependent upon the one army or the other. Rome had now been occupied by the French troops for five years, and yet there was no more appearance now of the Pope being able to govern his dominions than when that occupation first took place. There was no prospect, therefore, unless the Pope could be induced to adopt some other mode of Government than that against which his people revolted. Was it not possible that England, France, and Austria should devise some mode of Government consistent with justice, and which, by its adoption, might enable the Pope to have some share of independence in his own dominions? There was, unhappily, no immediate prospect of peace, and therefore he called the attention of the Government to the point, with a view to see if the influence of England could not be employed to place the States of Italy upon a sounder footing.

Mr. WILKINSON said there was no doubt but that the sympathies of this country were with Italy, Hungary, and Poland; but he could not see the utility of bringing the subject forward at the present moment. He understood that the noble Lord came back from Vienna entertaining the opinion that the propositions of Austria ought to be assented to, but that he had changed that opinion on a conference with his colleagues in the Cabinet. Now, however, he appeared to be of opinion that the propositions should have been accepted.

Lord J. RUSSELL said he did not think that the propositions of Austria could be now accepted. Indeed, it was difficult to say at the present moment what terms could be accepted.

Lord PALMERSTON said it was quite natural his noble friend should seek to impress the Government with his views on the important topics he had drawn the attention of the House to. The Government was deeply impressed with the gravity of the responsibility which was flung upon it by the present state of affairs. The noble Lord then proceeded to animadvert on the speech of Mr. Gladstone, who, himself a party to the war, had changed his opinion, and now sought to describe it as unnecessary, impolitic, and unjust; and said he believed the sentiments of the right hon. gentleman had no echo throughout the country.

GOVERNMENT RELIES ON THE PEOPLE.

There must, indeed, be grave reasons which could induce a man who was so far a party to the measures of the Government utterly to change his opinion—to declare this war unnecessary, unjust, and impolitic—to set before the country all the imaginary disaster with which his fancy could supply him, and to magnify and exaggerate the force of the enemy and the difficulties of our own position (loud cheers). Sir, I am not such a man as that (Hear, hear). My right hon. friends my colleagues in the Government are not men of that stamp (Hear, hear); and, therefore, in answer to my noble friend—to whom nothing that I have just said in the slightest degree applies—I have to state that her Majesty's Government, fully conscious of the great importance of this contest—fully conscious of the immense exertions which may be necessary to bring it to a successful termination—are prepared to take upon themselves the responsibility which belongs to their position, and will not be afraid, when Parliament meets again, to render an account of the manner in which that responsibility has been discharged (Hear). We are conscious also of the generous support which this House and the country have given to us throughout the exertions which we have felt it our duty to make. Whatever may be the opinions of some few members within these walls—I do not believe I can say whatever may be the opinions of some few persons out of the House, because I do not think the opinions we have heard here have any echo at all out of doors (Cheers)—I am satisfied that the great majority of this House, as proved by the votes they have come to on the subject, are faithful representatives of the manly spirit of the country, and that the confidence of this House and the support of the country will be given to any Government, whoever they may be, who, in the conduct of the great struggle in which we are now engaged, may perform the duties which devolve upon them to the best of their ability, and in accordance with the determined will of the people.

THE MINISTERIAL POLICY.

My noble friend has made some remarks upon the operations of the war and in reference to the terms of peace, but it cannot be expected that her Majesty's Government should enter into any explanations either upon one head or upon the other. It would be most unfeeling, and would obviously tend to defeat the policy of the country, if we were to throw out a sketch of what we thought might be accomplished in the prosecution of the war, and what would be the terms of peace upon which we thought the contest might be terminated with safety to the country (Hear, hear). The operations of war must in their nature be dependent upon circumstances that may arise in the prosecution of the war, and it is unnecessary to state to any man that to announce our intentions would be to lay the ground of defeat. The conditions of peace must depend upon the circumstances under which negotiations may be begun, and upon the success which either party in the war may have obtained at the moment when negotiations are commenced (Hear, hear).

THE SULTAN AND THE AUSTRIAN PROPOSALS.

There is, however, one point to which my noble friend adverted which calls for some remark. I refer to the opinion which he seems to have entertained that the Turkish Government had no objection to accept the Austrian proposals, but that their opinion was overborne by a contrary decision upon the part of the Governments of England and France. My noble friend must know far better than I can what was the personal opinion of the Turkish representative at Vienna upon that matter. I can only say that I have no reason whatever to believe or suppose that the Turkish Government differed in opinion from the Governments of England and France as to the necessity of not accepting the proposals to which my noble friend refers (Hear, hear). No doubt, if the time should arrive when the Turkish Government might imperatively think that certain conditions were consistent with their future security, their opinion ought to have considerable weight when the Governments of England and France might be called upon to discuss the conditions of peace. At the same time, a remark which fell from the hon. member for Lambeth ought not to be lost sight of—namely, that the objects for which the war was undertaken were too wide and important to depend solely upon the decision of the Turkish Government (Hear). The war was undertaken, not only for the protection of Turkey, but, as the hon. gentleman well observed, as a means to an end. No doubt the protection of Turkey, as a question affecting the balance of power in Europe, was an object for which it was the duty of the other Powers of Europe to contend; but beyond the protection of Turkey lies the still greater question of the grasping ambition of Russia—an ambition which no man has more forcibly or more fully explained than my noble friend himself, and which aims at the moral and physical subjugation of the continent of Europe, and the extinction of those principles of political and commercial liberty upon which the independent existence of the kingdoms of Europe must mainly depend (Hear, hear). Therefore I am not prepared to say that it ought to rest with the Government of Turkey to decide what are the conditions which it would be consistent with the future security and the permanent peace of Europe to accept; but the Governments of England and France have as great, and perhaps a greater, interest in that question than the Government of Turkey itself (Hear, hear). Their enlightened views on questions of European policy are more likely to be right than even the views of the Turkish Government, but there is no reason to suppose that any difference of opinion is likely to occur (Hear, hear). I can only say that, up to the present moment, there has been, and I trust that it may continue, a perfect unanimity and concord between the Governments of England, France, and Turkey (Hear).

THE FRENCH ALLIANCE.

In mentioning the Government of France, I must express my entire concurrence in the remarks of my noble friend as to the perfect sincerity, the cordial friendship, and the entire unity of opinion which prevail between the Governments of England and France (Cheers). Indeed, upon this great question the two Governments may be said to form but one Cabinet, some of the members of which are sitting in London and some in Paris. There is a perfect unity of opinion and a perfect unity of purpose, and I cannot but anticipate that the entire union which exists between the two countries must in the end accomplish the great objects for which they have united (Hear, hear).

With respect to Italy, he was happy to say that Sardinia presented one bright spot amidst the general gloom of the picture. He deprecated any discussions which would cast a shade of coldness over the relations of this country with France on the one hand, or with Austria on the other. The occupation of Rome had been beneficial, but the French troops there had been greatly reduced, and Austria had withdrawn her troops from Tuscany. The Austrian troops recently sent to Italy were for the purpose of replacing others who were entitled to return home, so that the Austrian troops were not increased in that country.

THE AUSTRIAN ALLIANCE.—CONDITION OF ITALY.

I am unable to say whether there has been any augmentation of the number of Austrian troops in Ancona or not, but I believe that the aggregate number of men

under arms in the territory is not larger than it has been for some time past; and I am persuaded any notion which may prevail that Austria is changing her policy with regard to the Allies, and is preparing for a course of action in Italy incompatible with her relations with England and France, is utterly unfounded. Whether Austria, at a future time, prompted by a regard for her own interests, may or may not find herself in a condition to take the field in conjunction with England and France, of one thing I am perfectly satisfied—that we shall not see Austria take the field against England and France, and in concert with Russia. My noble friend has said he thinks her Majesty's Government ought to take advantage of any circumstances which may from time to time arise, with the view of endeavouring—either through the Governments of France and Austria, or without them, according to the state of things—to ameliorate the condition of that fine country which he has so well and so justly described. It must be painful to every man to see a great people—for I must call the Italians a great people (Hear, hear)—endowed by nature with the highest qualities (Cheers), capable of becoming, as they were in former times, models in everything that elevates and dignifies human nature, debased by the accidental circumstances of their political condition from pursuing a career which would ennoble them as a great nation in the estimation of the world. It must, therefore, be the object of every British statesman—as it was, upon a former occasion, the object of my right hon. friend the member for the University of Oxford—not only to alleviate the pressure which now weighs upon the Italians, but to open to them a nobler career, and one more congenial with the high qualities with which they have been endowed by nature. My noble friend must be aware how difficult it is to alter a state of things which has existed for many years; but I can assure him and the House that her Majesty's Government are animated by the same feelings which he has expressed, and that they will avail themselves of any fair and proper opportunity which may present itself with the view of improving the condition of the Italian people.

In conclusion, he assured the House that the attention of the Government would be sedulously directed to the topics introduced by his noble friend, and he hoped that when Parliament should meet again it would have no reason to complain that Government had been lax in its duties, either in these respects, or in the vigorous prosecution of the war.

Mr. HENLEY said that nobody would be more pleased than himself to hear a satisfactory account of the vigorous prosecution of the war when Parliament should meet again. With respect to the state of Italy, he could see no good from bringing forward the question at present. It was only throwing down another apple of discord, which might lead to much evil. He much doubted if any one of the parties at Vienna had gone there with the remotest hope or intention of making peace, and he thought the country had nothing now left but to fight it out.

The bill was then read a third time, and passed.

The other orders of the day were then disposed of, and the House rose until six o'clock.

CONSTITUTIONS FOR VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES.

In the evening, in answer to Mr. Kennedy, Sir W. MOLESWORTH stated that the Acts by which representative constitutions were established in the colonies of Victoria and New South Wales had been dispatched from this country on the 4th inst.

HOSPITALS IN THE EAST.

Mr. STAFFORD, in moving for a number of returns connected with the military hospitals at Scutari, Therapia, and other places in the East, took occasion to reiterate his comments on the general sanitary arrangements of the army in the Crimea, and renewing his complaint touching the neglect and insufficiency which he contended were still manifest in various branches of the medical service.

Mr. F. FELL vindicated the skill and efficiency of the hospitals and medical departments generally, declaring that all the causes of complaint had been long since removed and remedied. It was still his hope that Sebastopol would be captured before the end of the year; but if not, and another winter campaign was found necessary, every provision would be abundantly made for the army, whether in health or sickness.

The motion, with certain modifications, was then agreed to, and some portion of the required papers ordered to be produced, in continuation of former returns on the same subject.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

Mr. V. SMITH made the annual statement of Indian finances; from which it appeared that the surplus income for 1852-53 over the expenditure was £421,227, being £200,000 less than had been estimated by Sir C. Wood in his statement of last year. From the state of the revenue and expenditure in the year quoted he feared they must reckon upon a deficiency of £3,000,000 for the year 1854-55, and to meet this it had been proposed to lay a tax on salt, which, however, would not be listened to, and the mode of meeting the deficiency would undergo the serious consideration of the Indian Government. The great item in the expenditure was, of course, the army. He believed no one would propose to reduce the army at the present moment. It was something to say that they had an army in India of 320,000, upon whom, if recruiting failed in this country, they could rely, and that it comprehended a cavalry, the irregular horse, who might be of great use at the Cape and in the Crimea. It would not be wise, therefore, to reduce the Indian army. The expenditure for public works was not made till it was needed, and for that expenditure the House of Commons was responsible. The Directors and Board of Control were not insensible to the necessity for economy, and in a despatch sent out on June 27, 1855, a revision of salaries was recommended. Lord W. Bentinck had succeeded in reducing the expenditure from £3,155,134 to £2,927,167 in two years; but no such reduction could now be made, because the chief part of that reduction had been in the expenditure for the army. The money expended on public works was not to be considered as lost, but as profitably invested. He came now to what he must call the brilliant prospects of India. The most perfect tranquillity and peace prevailed throughout India at present. The Governor-General had entered into a treaty with Ava; and a treaty—a very valuable one—had been entered into with Cabul. By the latter treaty the western frontier would be secured. With regard to Persia, the British Minister had to cope with the diplomacy of Russia, and the exaggerated promises which Russia held out to the Shah; but at present there were no difficulties with that Power. They had heard much of Russian influence in every part of the East. By the report of the Commissioner of that country it was gratifying to know that in the countries bordering on Khiva, so far from the Russian army being threatening, it had been reduced by the war in Europe, and was unusually weak and inactive. It was absurd to suppose that the war against Russia in Europe was continued from any fear of her aggression in the East. The Indian navy was in a state of so great improvement that his right hon. friend might soon be able to withdraw British vessels of war from those seas. Besides the roads and canals that were in progress, the electric telegraph had been established, and many hundreds of miles of railway completed. These internal improvements had cost a large sum, and he believed if more attention had been paid at first to centralisation of companies and uniformity of action, some expense would have been saved. But it was too late for that now. The electric telegraph had been completed mainly through the exertions of Mr. Shaugnessy; and a proposal had been submitted by another gentleman for the establishment of the electric telegraph between India and this country by way of Egypt. His right hon. friend had not been able to produce the bill which he had promised on civil and criminal procedure, but he had been able to introduce a bill for the establishment of a resident, instead of an itinerant, judge in the Straits settlements. He must not omit the question of justice and police, and above all, the commission as to torture (Hear, hear).

This was a painful topic (Hear, hear). It was impossible to deny that there had existed in the Madras presidency a practice of administering torture for the purpose of compelling payment of taxes or extorting confession of crime (Hear, hear). The only consolation was that no European appeared to have been personally implicated in the inflicting of such tortures. No doubt the European officials were nearly as culpable for overlooking such a system (Hear, hear) as if they had been concerned in it (Hear, hear); and the system was utterly abhorrent to English feeling (Hear, hear). The Governor of the Presidency had done all in his power to suppress it when it had been brought to light, and had passed an Act for the purpose; and he (Mr. V. Smith) assured the House that it should not be allowed to sleep (Hear, hear); but that the system should be entirely abolished (Hear, hear). With regard to the great question of Administrative Reform it had actually been carried out by an Act of Parliament in 1853, enforcing a due regard to merit in the distribution of civil appointments. In conclusion he spoke of the selection of Lord Canning as most fortunate. The power of the Governor-General was nearly absolute; but his noble friend was not a man to be led away by any schemes of conquest. His noble friend would rather endeavour to develop the resources of India, and would recollect that the illustrious name he bore was associated with rational liberty and with the principles and institutions of a free people (Cheers).

Mr. BRIGHT analysed the recent operation which had taken place with regard to the Indian debt, contending that the reduction of interest, followed so speedily by the issue of a new loan, was altogether collusive and indefensible. The Indian Government, he believed, had practically deceived the public and defrauded its creditors. After pursuing at much length his comments upon the financial position of the Indian Government, Mr. Bright concluded by moving an amendment to the following resolutions:—

That, in the opinion of this House, with a view to bring the state of the finances of India more clearly before Parliament, it is desirable that the Board of Control for the affairs of India should consider the practicability of making up the annual accounts of the revenues of India on the 30th day of October, instead of on the 30th day of April, and of laying before Parliament, during the month of March in each year, a complete statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Indian Treasury during the preceding year, with an estimate of the anticipated receipts and expenditure for the current year.

That this House is further of opinion that, in order to afford a fair opportunity for a consideration of the statement on Indian finance, now annually submitted to the House by the President of the Board of Control, it is desirable that in future that annual statement should be made at such a period of the Session as shall permit of its receiving the attention which its importance demands.

An animated discussion occurred as to the existence in India of the

practice of torture in the collection of the revenue, in which Sir J. W. Hogg, Mr. J. G. Phillimore, Mr. Otway, Mr. Henley, Sir C. Wood, Mr. Whiteside, Mr. Mangles, Mr. Danby Seymour, and Mr. V. Scully, took part; after which the resolutions of Mr. Bright, with some slight alterations, were agreed to.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—WEDNESDAY.

The Burials Bill, with several amendments, was read a third time and passed; also the Criminal Justice Bill, with several amendments, was read a third time and passed.

Several other bills were advanced a stage.

COUNTRY NEWS.

RESIGNATION OF MR. M. T. BAINES, PRESIDENT OF THE POOR-LAW BOARD.—The *Leeds Mercury* of Saturday last contains the following address to the electors of the borough of Leeds, signed by Mr. M. T. Baines, and dated Poor-law Board, Whitehall, August 2, 1855:—"Gentlemen,—You are on every account entitled to learn directly from myself a step which, after great consideration, I have thought it right to take. The recent state of my health has forced upon me the conviction that I can no longer hope to perform, in a manner satisfactory to my own mind, the laborious and highly responsible duties of President of the Poor-law Board, in conjunction with those other numerous and important duties which necessarily devolve upon the Parliamentary representative of a borough like Leeds. Under this conviction, I have thought it right to place the resignation of my office in the hands of the Prime Minister, and I now retain it only till the end of the present Session. My most grateful thanks are due to you for past indulgence; and I entertain a confident hope that I may be able, when undisturbed with office, to devote myself with increased zeal and assiduity to my duties as your representative in the House of Commons."

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF ROBERT NICOLL.—The *Pertshire Advertiser* gives an account of a festival in honour of the memory of Robert Nicoll, held on his native Ordie braes. The party, amounting to about a hundred, assembled in a beautiful sequestered dell on Ordie braes, and within two hundred yards of the spot where the poet first saw the light of day. Mr. T. Richardson, an old friend of the poet, discharged the office of chairman. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, the chairman proposed, in a few appropriate remarks, the health of the poet's parents, Robert and Grace Nicoll, and concluded by presenting them with a handsomely-bound copy of their son's poems, with the following inscription:—"This copy of 'Nicoll's poems' was presented to the parents of the poet by a few of the admirers of the author's genius.—July 5, 1855." "Thou hast left no son, but the song will preserve thy name." The poet's father briefly acknowledged the toast and presentation.

PROJECTED ORGANISATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.—During last week deputations of merchants from Bristol, Bradford, Worcester, the Potteries, &c., met in conference in Birmingham, for the purpose of considering the propriety of establishing an agency in London, through which all the proceedings of provincial Chambers of Commerce relating to bills before Parliament shall be more effectually directed. At present the desultory and isolated efforts of local bodies acting independently of each other are admitted to be very ineffective; and it is thought that if an office or agency were established in London to watch and report upon all measures and information relating to the interests of trade and commerce, great good might be effected and much injurious legislation obviated. The deputations present, after considerable conversation, approved the proposal (which originated in Bristol), and they were desired to confer with the members of their respective Chambers of Commerce at another meeting upon the subject.

A SHORT-TIME MOVEMENT IN THE COUNTRY.—A public meeting of the ploughmen of Coupar-Angus district was held in the Strathmore hall last Saturday evening, for the purpose of considering the propriety of forming themselves into an association having for its object the abridgment of their hours of labour. The witness of the evening did not damp the ardour of the ploughboys, for it was computed that upwards of 200 of them were present. Mr. David Stewart was called to the chair, and briefly stated some of the injurious effects of long-protracted and exhaustive labour upon the mental and physical constitution of man. The wishes of the men are as follows:—Rise, in summer, by five o'clock a.m.; take half an hour to groom the horses, another half-hour to breakfast; yoke at six, and loose a quarter before eleven o'clock; yoke again at one o'clock p.m., and loose a quarter before six, grooming the horses afterwards. In winter, rise in time to have the horses ready to go out by early dawn; get one hour in the middle of the day for dinner; yoke again, and loose in the dusk of the evening. Have horse-suppering done, if possible, by seven o'clock evening, so as to afford time for attending classes, lectures, meetings, and other means of improvement. To further these objects an association was formed, officers chosen, and money collected to defray necessary expenses. Another meeting was held in the Strathmore hall, when a gentleman from Alyth delivered an address in favour of the movement.

DECREASE OF PAUPERISM.—It is a pleasing circumstance that, notwithstanding the high price of provisions, pauperism has to a great extent decreased throughout the whole of South Wales, and that there is a gradual decrease in the amount of crime. The various judicial courts just held were not heavy, and in the various union-houses there are scarcely any able-bodied poor. This is partly owing to the demand for labour, arising from the active state of the staple productions of the districts, and new works now opened and about to be opened. Were it not for the high rate of provisions the rates would be much lower.

EMIGRATION OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS FROM LIVERPOOL.—One of the twelve apostles of the Mormons, who resides in Liverpool, publishes a newspaper entitled *The Millennial Star*, containing a variety of intelligence relative to the "sayings and doings" of the Latter-day Saints. From the last number of the *Star*, published on Saturday last, it appears that during the past year the Mormon emigrants from Europe, who sailed for the Great Salt Lake city from Liverpool, from the 27th Nov. 1854, to the 26th April, 1855, amounted to 3626 persons. Of this number the passage-money of 1127 was paid by an emigration fund; 610 were sent for by their friends in Utah; and 373 paid for themselves. There emigrants consisted of 2231 English, 401 Scotch, 287 Welsh, 28 Irish, 75 French, 409 Danes, 71 Swedes, 53 Norwegians, 15 Swiss, 15 Italians, 13 Germans, and 1 Prussian. The report adds that most of the emigrants have lately proceeded to Utah via Philadelphia and New York, instead of the old route via New Orleans and St. Louis, and that the new route has been found far better than the old one. In another part of the *Star* it is stated that 1500 Saints were present at the Manchester conference on the 24th ult., when eighty baptisms were reported. In Liverpool, at the conference on the 17th July, the baptisms were thirty-seven, and the Saints were reported to be in debt for chapel accommodation.

WARNING TO SEA-SIDE VISITORS.—Two young ladies, named Miss Lamplough and Miss Oxley, went to walk on the sands at Bridlington Quay on Wednesday week. After they had been together for some time the latter went to get a drink at a chalybeate spring of water which issued from the cliff opposite Hildershorpe, and the former returned to town, as she thought rain was about to fall. Miss Oxley said she would follow her in a short time, but Miss Lamplough reached home and her companion never joined her. Alarm was excited, search was made, and it was found that the unfortunate young lady had been crushed to death by the fall of a portion of the cliff, weighing about thirty tons.

MURDER IN DEVONSHIRE.—A revolting murder was committed at Mortham, a village in the north of Devon, last week. A man named Robert Hancock, a labourer, being jealous of his wife, struck her with a hammer several times, and afterwards cut her throat. He was apprehended on Thursday week, and on Friday a coroner's inquest was held, when Hancock was committed on a charge of wilful murder.

THE ROCHEDALE MURDER.—Jonathan Heywood, who is suspected to have murdered Margaret Jones on the 21st ult., was arrested on the 3rd inst., in the neighbourhood of Bacup. He had been wandering about, and enduring great misery, since the time of his absconding.

TERRIBLE GUNPOWDER EXPLOSION.—A few days ago the safety fuse manufactory of Messrs. Hawke and Co., of Gwennap, in Cornwall, was completely destroyed by a gunpowder explosion. There were ten women employed in the manufactory, two of whom were engaged in binding lengths of fuse called "rods," when one of these broke, and friction being caused by the machinery, some loose powder was ignited, which communicated with 100lb. weight of gunpowder, and a terrific explosion was the result. Two of the women were killed, and all the others were more or less injured. One of the young women killed was to have been married in a few days.

REMARKABLE WILL CAUSE.—A gentleman named Witter, lately died in Chester, leaving property to the amount of £17,000 to Mr. S. J. Roberts, solicitor, Chester—situating it from his own relatives, who were in needy circumstances. His sister, Mrs. Gray, accordingly disputed the will, which had been drawn up a short time before Mr. Witter's death by Mr. S. J. Roberts; and in the course of the proceedings which she instituted in the Ecclesiastical Court it turned out that a prior will had been made by the deceased some months before, in which the bulk of the property was devised to Mrs. Gray. She then sought to obtain possession of the landed property (and so invalidate the second will), which was situate at Cilcen, near Mold, and was occupied by the defendant. Last week an offer of a private settlement was made by the plaintiff, with which Mr. Roberts at once closed, and he is to give up £8600, one-half of the property, the plaintiff consenting to forego all further proceedings.

THE BOOK-BUYER.—(No. I.)

I AM a buyer of books, for my own amusement and instruction. I have a library reasonably large, and, of course, increasing every day. The late Mr. Heber, who had four houses to hold his library—two in London, one in Shropshire, and the fourth in Paris—would have laughed at its extent. The late Mr. Thomas Rodd (most intelligent of booksellers) would have called it "a handful." Mr. Panizzi would mutter in Italian that it was nothing to speak about. Mr. Toovey would smile at its general appearance, so little does it show of Roger Payne or Kalthorber. While the members of the Philobiblon Society would find much to repay a careful examination of its shelves; and Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson, matter for a ten days' sale, and materials for an attractive advertisement.

I like to dally in the past, and to live well up in the present. I do not care for a variety of editions of the same author; but I must have the best. I have sought that it shall not be said of me what was said of Douglas, who collected every edition of Horace—

Horace he has by various hands,
But not one Horace that he understands.

In forming my collection my difficulty is to tell what new books I should obtain. What public critics am I so follow in making my selection?—the *Quarterly* or the *Edinburgh*—*Blackwood* or *Fraser*—the *Examiner* or *Speculator*—the *Athenæum* or *Literary Gazette*? I look at all—am influenced by all; but am more frequently determined in my choice by a peep into the book itself—sometimes at my club—oftener at my bookseller's.

The experience that I have gained in this way may, it is thought, prove useful to other purchasers, and generally entertaining to the public. It has been pointed out to me (what, indeed, I had myself observed) that it is too much the custom of critics to crowd their columns with notices only of the books sent to them. This practice serves only to mislead. There are many books well meriting a hereafter that are never sent to the established critics.

In this age of increasing desire to rush into print, and when so very many books are published that Mr. Panizzi finds a difficulty in lodging the past and the present in the British Museum, the great question for the collector is, "What books shall I buy?" There are hand-books to tell him of a plan "by which a saving of at least one-half may be effected in the purchase of modern books, and in other matters connected with authorship;" but there is really no one paper which tells him "what books to buy." To say of a book that you must read it, is not saying so much in its favour as when you are emphatically told to "buy it."

It may be safely assumed that every week produces at least one work that the collector should purchase. In this belief we start the "Book-Buyer," and find the "Book of the Week," in a little green-covered volume of verse which, after a slight inspection of its worth, Mr. Moxon has given us in exchange for five shillings. This little volume is entitled "Maud, and other Poems, by Alfred Tennyson, D.C.L., Poet Laureate."

If you are in love with poetry by all means buy this volume. In spite of its many defects it is the work of a true-born poet, of a man who thinks for himself, and has an eye exquisitely alive to rural nature. The volume consists of about a hundred and fifty pages, of which one hundred are dedicated to the story of "Maud," and the remaining fifty to seven small poems, of which two, at least—the "Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington" and "The Charge of the Light Brigade"—have been previously published. We see them, however, in a new dress, and with some omissions and alterations, that show how ready Mr. Tennyson is to profit by sensible criticism.

Mr. Tennyson might have designated "Maud" by the same descriptive title he attached to his "Princess;" for most assuredly "Maud" is a "Maidley." It is a poem of strong Carlylesms and gentle touches of female loveliness; of strong emotions and imperfect sympathies, written in a variety of wild and effective measures—awakening contempt in one place—admiration in another, with here and there a laugh (by no means intended by the poet), but more frequently a feeling of satisfaction for many pages of true poetry. The story is that of the love of a nameless, motherless, and poor man (by whom the story, such as it is, is told)—for a motherless girl, the daughter of a rich millionaire, who owns, by recent purchase, an old manorial hall, with picturesque gable ends, and is ever in London intent on increasing his wealth. The millionaire has two children—a girl (Maud) and a brother, who is thus contemptuously introduced to us:—

That dandy despot, he,
That jewell'd mass of millinery,
That oil'd and curl'd Assyrian Bull,
Smelling of musk and of insolence,
Her brother, from whom I keep aloof.

This "ponderous Squire," as he is elsewhere called, passes by the name of "the Sultan." The Sultan has a friend, "a babe-faced Lord"—

A Lord, a Captain, a padded shape,
A bought commission, a waxen face,
A rabbit mouth that is ever agape—

to whom the Sultan designs his sister to be married. But Maud is in love with the "nameless and the poor," and the allusions to their stolen meetings are among the most beautiful passages in the whole poem. The hero and minstrel still keeps aloof from the brother; and at a grand "political dinner and ball" which the Sultan gives the poet is not invited. He finds his way, however, to Maud's garden, and is there encountered by the enraged brother, receives the lie and the blow, and returns both. The brother is killed by the nameless lover of Maud; and the reader is taken to the end of the poem through cells of madness, and all the agonies of despair, horror, and fear.

Of story, it will be seen, there is indeed but little. The jewel is of small value, but the setting is a masterpiece of art. It is told in every variety of metre—from the high and wild, down to the prattling or nambly-pamby. Beauties abound, but they are difficult of extraction: they suffer by being torn from the adjoining portions. I will try, however, and extract what will lose the least in the operation:—

In a wakeful doze I sorrow
For the hand, the lips, the eyes,
For the meeting of the morrow—
The delight of happy laughter,
The delight of low replies.

Dead! long dead!
Long dead!
And my heart is a handful of dust,
And the wheels go over my head,
And my bones are shaken with pain,
For into a shallow grave they are thrust,
Only a yard beneath the street,
And the hoofs of the horses beat, beat,
The hoofs of the horses beat,
Beat into my scalp and brain,
With never an end to the stream of passing feet,
Driving, hurrying, madding, burying,
Clamour and rumble, and ringing and clatter;
And here beneath it is all as bad,
For I thought the dead had peace, but it is not so;
To have no peace in the grave is that not sad!
But up and down and to and fro,
Ever about me the dead men go;
And then to hear a dead man chatter
Is enough to drive one mad.

Here and there we are reminded of sentiments much better expressed by other poets. Thus, speaking of Maud:—

I know the way she went
Home with her maiden posy,
For her feet have touch'd the meadows,
And left the daisies rosy.

What says Ben Jonson?—

Here she was wont to go! and here! and here!
Just where those daisies, pinks, and violets grow;
The world may find the spring by following her,
For other print her airy steps ne'er left.
Her treading would not bend a blade of grass,
Or shake the downy blow-ball from her stalk!
But like the soft west wind she shot along,
And where she went the flowers took thickest root,
As she had sowed them with her odorous foot,

And thus again of Maud:—

Now I thought she was kind,
Only because she was cold.

Reminding us most pleasantly of Shenstone:—

So sweetly she bade me adieu,
I thought that she bade me return.

But Mr. Tennyson is too often original and excellent to suffer by such accidental and superior resemblances.

I am inclined to think that the best return for my five shillings is the second poem in this charming little volume. This is "The Brook, an Idyll," in which, surrounded with a fair quantity of poetic conceits, is this exquisite piece of genuine poetry, reminding us of William Browne, and the very best of our pastoral writers:—

THE BROOK.

I come from haunts of coot and hern, I make a sudden sally, And sparkle out among the ferns, Toicker down a valley.	And here and there a lusty trout, And here and there a grayling, And here and there a foamy flake Upon me, as I travel; With many a silvery water-break Above the golden gravel.
By thirty hills I hurry down, Or slip between the ridges, By twenty Thorps, a little town, And half a hundred bridges.	And draw them all along, and flow To join the brimming river; For men may come, and men may go, But I go on for ever.
Till last by Philip's farm I flow To join the brimming river, For men may come, and men may go, But I go on for ever.	I steal by lawns and grassy plots, I slide by hazel covers; I move the sweet forget-me-nots That grow for happy lovers.
I chatter over stony ways, In little sharps and trebles, I bubble into eddying bays, I babble on the pebbles.	I slip, I slide, I gloom, I glance, Among my skimming sallies; I make the netted sunbeam dance Against my sandy shallows.
With many a curve, my banks I fret, By many a field and fallow, And many a fairy foreland set With willow-weed and mallow.	I murmur under moon and stars In brambly wildernesses; I linger by my slinging bars, I loiter round my cresses.
I chatter, chatter as I flow To join the brimming river, For men may come, and men may go, But I go on for ever.	And out again I curve and flow, To join the brimming river, For men may come and men may go, But I go on for ever.

This is true poetry, and not less so is a picture in the same poem equally drawn from nature, and which I do not remember to have seen described before. The poet is speaking of a herd of deer:—

In copse and fern
Twinkled the innumerable ear and tail.

What a sweet picture is presented in a few words in

Clasp'd hands and that petitionary grace
Of sweet seventeen.

"The Daisy, written at Edinburgh" is a book of halting-places in Italy put into verse, with very little about the daisy, and that little neither appropriate nor well said. The poem is moreover disfigured by new-coined or uselessly-recovered words, such as "niched shapes," "colonnaded aisles," and "statured pinnacles." I cannot, however, regret my purchase, indeed, I am proud of my acquisition, and proud in feeling that we have still among us our Poet Laureate.

NOVEL, OR STRANGE.

(From the first number of the "Comic Times.")

A large flight of lobsters passed over Birmingham on Tuesday, on their yearly migration to the Moors. One shot at Leamington measured nearly an imperial pint, and has been added to the fine geological collection of Mr. Brown, of that city.

It is not generally known that, by a recent postal regulation, ice-creams can be sent from London to any part of the kingdom for one stamp. They must be enclosed in paper-bags, open at each end, and addressed to the collector of taxes for the district: without which none can be distributed.

The artificial cultivation of anchovies is extensively practised at Islington. They require a high/light soil. This is dressed with a compost of sprat and bole Armenian, and they come up after heavy rains, in pods, each containing a fish. They may be detected by boiling them in ginger-wine, when they turn blue, and being dried and powdered, form the substance known as emery.

The enclosure of Belgrave-square has been purchased by M. Franconi, for a circus, to which he proposes to add extensive vitriol works, a hospital for lumbago, a Young Man's Evening Association for conversations on chronology, and an elaborate model of Sark, to which, at present, all eyes are directed.

Large reinforcements for the Crimea continue to arrive at Melbourne, from Cork, and are dispatched, with all possible speed, to San Francisco and Wabash.

The most interesting object in the Paris Exhibition at present, is a machine for opening sardine boxes. It consists of a steam-engine of 300-horse power, working on two revolving flanges with vertical shafts, at a graduated pressure of 3 1-10ths in seven minutes—not bad work. The cylinder, which is rectangular, oscillates at the rate of eleven inches in the mile, and, being self-feeding, requires no more attention than every ten minutes putting the crank out of gear with an eccentric beam, which a child can control with a spoke-shave. One of these has been already set up at Hackney, where the consumption of sardines is enormous, from the frequent recurrence of Ash Wednesday in that district, owing to its substratum of clay on the primitive sandstone. It is said to answer admirably, and the spirited speculator is enabled to apply the waste power to polishing common bricks, with fig-dust and ferro-sequi-cyanuret of the cyanide of potassium, until they cannot be told from cubes of cornelian.

Mr. Brown, of this city, passed by Watford, on Tuesday, on his way to Tring. He was expected to return the next day.

THERE are some smart fellows in the Crimea. We asked our Special Correspondent to give us his opinion of the climate and the country, and he wrote us word that he liked the out-and-out country very well, but that he found the *Rus(s) in urbe* quite intolerable.

EVERY DAY we receive proofs of the wisdom of our ancestors. A Monsieur Duprat has contrived to extract alcohol from acorns—one hundred pounds of the latter yielding five pounds of the former. This being the case, we can believe that the oaks of Dodona may have spoken to some purpose, and that the groves of Mona were to the Druids what the Shades of Thames-street are to us. When Mr. J. B. Gough hears this, will he not deny acorns to his pigs?

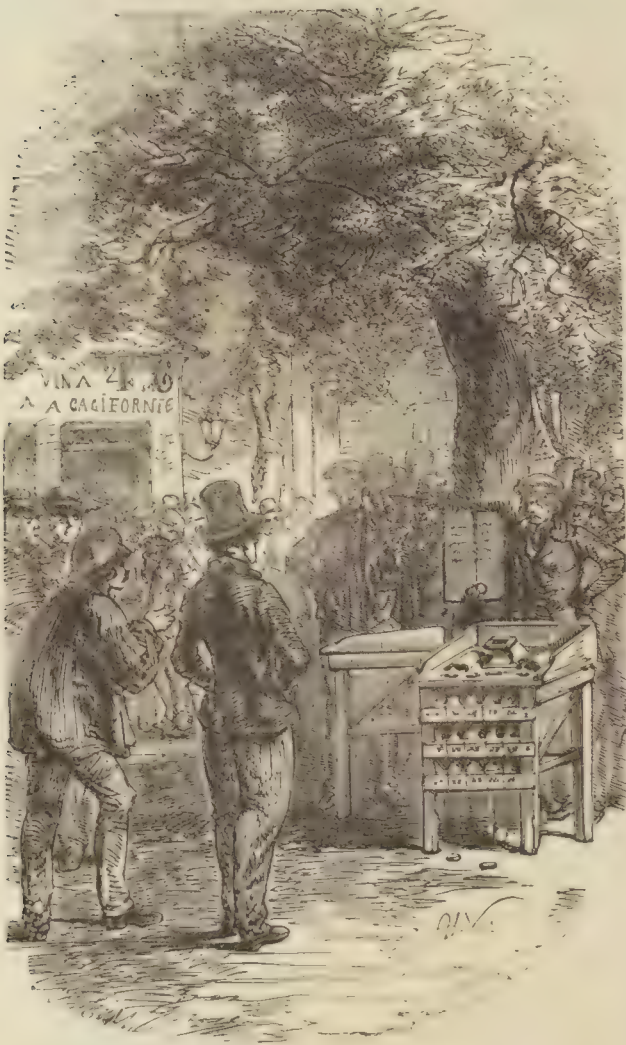
It is not generally known that Dr. Mann has dedicated his work, on the "Philosophy of Reproduction," to Mr. Harrison Ainsworth, as a small return to that zealous author for the skill which he has displayed in reducing the theory to practice.

OUR contemporaries are very fond of treating us with the talk of the Clubs, and with gleanings from the Clubs. If we may judge from the specimens thus presented to us, the Clubs are not trumps; and we wish the Gleaner would change his hands, and give us the talk of the Hearts, for rumour says there is some genius about the Hartz, and we should like to be better acquainted. As for the Spades, we consider it *infra dig.* to think of them, for they have done nothing worthy of note since the days of Sir Cloudeley Shovel; and we should derive no amusement from the Diamonds, for they have more than one face for their friends, and they are gloomy fellows, and are always writing upon panes.

ATTEMPT TO CHANGE A FASHION.—The ladies are at present wearing a broad, flapping, slouched hat of brown chip, which over-shadows their features like a huge parasol. Respecting this umbrageous covering—only occasionally seen in town, but very common in the country, and particularly at the sea-side—the opinions of the gentlemen are exceedingly various: some wisely regard them for their utility, others consider them as graceful and becoming, and many declare them decidedly ugly. An energetic individual, who in his own circle has exhausted alike his authority and his eloquence in the vain attempt to induce the ladies to abandon their own fancies and adopt his, finding the will of the gentle beings entirely too powerful for him, has essayed an experiment, in the hope of attaining by stratagem what he has failed to effect by argument. He has bought up all the hats of the description alluded to that Southport can supply, and has distributed them among the humble damsels of the district, with a request that they will wear them on all occasions while pursuing their ordinary avocations. The damsels have taken to them with the most perfect affection, and have fulfilled his wishes to the letter, for females of all classes love to be in the fashion. The servants, donkey-drivers, and fish-girls of Southport, the town rustic, and the ruddy milkmaid, at this moment all wear the round hat; but whether the stratagem will have the desired result is still "in the bosoms of the Fates." The ladies, so far, have only laughed good-humouredly at the artifice; and, as the sex generally make a point of having their own way, we feel assured that the stratagem will "take nothing by his motion."—*Liverpool Daily Post.*

The heat and drought in Southern Russia have been so intense that no one expects more than very moderate crops; and the price of corn has been considerably raised in consequence, both at Taganrog and Odessa.

POPULAR AMUSEMENTS OF PARIS.



EXTERIOR OF A CHEAP WINE-SHOP.



SHOOTING AT PLASTER CASTS.

PARIS is at this moment the great focus of attraction, and before the end of next week will be visited by many thousands of Englishmen, anxious to be spectators of the brilliant reception which the French have determined to give the Queen of Great Britain and her illustrious Consort and family. A few words at this time in reference to some of the sights, for which the gayest of all gay capitals is most remarkable, will not be unwelcome to our readers, especially to such of them as may be drawn next week within the charmed circle of these Regal and Imperial festivities.



SKITTLES AT THE BARRIER.



BALL AT THE BARRIER.

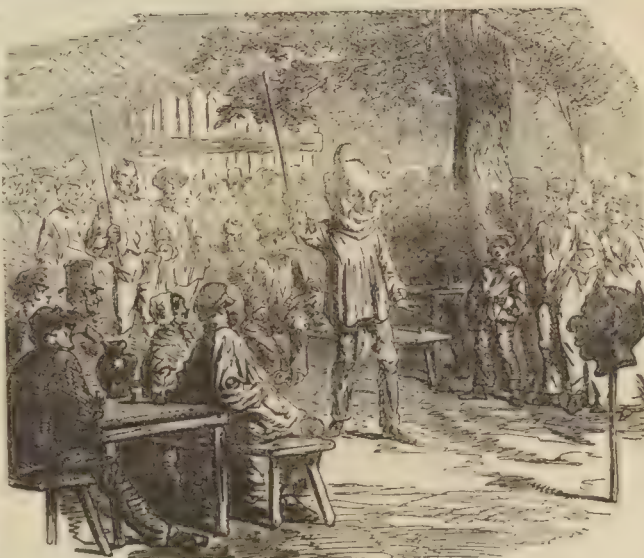


PARISIAN BOWLING-ALLEY.

Those who visit Paris for the first time and who are at once impressed with the number and variety of its places of amusement, would be astonished if they happened to make a tour on the exterior boulevard to find that at each successive barrier are fresh *restaurants*, fresh balls, and fresh pretexts for amusement of every kind, from pea-shooting and skittles, to the assassination (in effigy) of some of the most eminent men this century has produced. For skittles, bowls, and athletic exercises in general, the French have but little taste, but they have a passion for shooting at plaster casts of the Emperor of Russia, Prince Menschikoff, and even their own Louis Philippe, the Count de Chambord, Thiers, Guizot, and in short any man whose effigy the Government will allow them to use as a target.

Of course the great attraction at the barriers is the cheapness of the wine, on which no *octroi* duties have been levied. This is generally of infamous quality, and, from its violet colour, is spoken of familiarly by the Parisian *ouvrier* as *petit bleu*. In hopes of gaining an undue proportion of this *petit bleu*, the frequenter of the barriers devotes himself to the practice of pitch-and-toss, and sometimes gives himself up to the still more difficult art of making a blind, but at the same successful, attack upon a wooden head of gigantic and asinine appearance, to miss which is to have to pay for *petit bleu* all round. The amusements at the Parisian *cafés*, such as billiards and dominoes, are seldom found at the barriers—the latter scarcely ever, which, in our opinion, says a great deal for the sense of those who frequent them, as the avoidance of the domino may be looked upon as the beginning of wisdom.

The booths and travelling theatres which are seen at most of the principal barriers differ in no important respect from those of the Champs Elysées, which have been already described in this Journal. The actors are always French, and are always represented as being English, Spanish, Italian, or Chinese. The company of human actors is sometimes advantageously replaced by a "marine calf" or an "intelligent seal."



THE ORDEAL OF THE BLIND.

The plentifulness and cheapness of provisions at the barriers procured some years since for the collection of *restaurants* and wine-shops at the Barrière du Maine the title of California. At the time of this name being with so much propriety bestowed, a mutton-chop at St. Francisco cost about half-a-crown, and no wine could be obtained under two or three pounds a bottle! The title of California was, however, found so attractive, that the *restaurants* of Belleville and Mont Parnasse lost no time in adopting it in their turn.

Although it can be demonstrated by the most simple statistics that the meat sold outside the barriers cost as much, within two sous per pound, as that sold in the city itself, and although there is not a difference of more than a penny per quart between the price of the far-famed barrier wine and that of the *ordinaire* of the metropolitan wine-shops, it is taken for granted by Parisians that a dinner at the barriers is a peculiarly economical affair. The duty levied by the *octroi* authorities in meat and wine is not, however, an *ad valorem* duty; so that pigs' trotters and *vin ordinaire* are charged as much for entry as *filet de bœuf* and *Romanée-Conti*; and, accordingly, only those who can content themselves with rather inferior food, and very inferior drink, should think of dining at the barriers at all, for it is only on inferior articles of diet that a diminution in price is observable. The student of national characteristics of course dines at the barriers in order to have an opportunity of observing the manners and customs of "the people." But whenever he does so, he certainly sacrifices his digestion to the love of acquiring information. We must make an exception to this rule in favour of the excellent *restaurant* of the *père Lathuille* outside the Barrière Clichy. This establishment is patronised by the rich *dilettanti* in cheap dining-places, who are so delighted when they find *Laitte* at six francs and a half a bottle, instead of seven francs, that they at once take two bottles of it instead of one; and who, because the charges generally are about ten per cent less at the Barrière Clichy than at *Very's*, think themselves justified in ordering a hundred per cent more in the way of dishes and wine than



THE PARISIAN CALIFORNIA.

they would otherwise have ever thought of doing. The Père Lathuille owes his celebrity not only to the merits of his *cuisine* and cellar, which are undeniable, but also to the fact of his house having been made the headquarters of the Generals who defended Paris against the Allies in 1814. This defence forms the subject of an admirable picture by Horace Vernet, and those who are familiar with it will remember that the restaurant of the Père Lathuille plays an important part in it.

As a contrast to the restaurant *Lathuille*, we may mention the celebrated one dedicated, in the characteristic orthography of the barriers, à *l'Azar de la fourchette* (i. e. to the chance of the fork). An enormous tank is filled with soup, in which pieces of meat and vegetables, of various dimensions, are contained. The payment of two sous entitles you to a "ticket for soup," which at the same time gives you the privilege of plunging a fork of gigantic proportions to the very bottom of the tank, when anything that attaches itself to the prongs of the fork becomes your property. Several haricots, one or two potatoes, and occasionally the head of a duck, have in this manner been skillfully obtained; and it is asserted that, in the year 1846, one fortunate man actually succeeded in capturing half a mutton-chop. We give this fact, however, as it has reached us, without in any manner vouching for its accuracy.

The lively Barrier of Mont Parnasse, which is but two steps from the cemetery of the same name—thus reminding us of the proximity of the capitol to the Tarpeian rock—is the one at which extra-mural festivity appears to be carried to its highest pitch. Accordingly it is there that the most celebrated of the barrier balls are held. These balls (11) differ from those of a higher class in two respects: firstly, that the dances are generally "avec rétribution"—that is to say that "retributive" halfpence are collected from the dancers to pay for the orchestra, gas, &c.; and, secondly, that the ladies generally wear caps, while the gentlemen usually make their appearance in their *casquettes*. No *ouvrière* would think of wearing a bonnet unless her *toilette* generally were of an elevated description; and no *ouvrier* would dream of wearing a hat unless perhaps on the day of his marriage. The caps is the natural antithesis to the hat, which the *ouvrier* affects to despise, and which he pretends to think is never paid for by the "aristo" who wears it. Hence the celebrated refrain:—

Nous avons payé nos casquettes,
Et vous n'avez pas payé vos chapeaux.

The following description of the dancing at these balls is by Heine, and appears in one of the celebrated letters which he addressed from Paris to the *Allgemeine Zeitung*:—

The lower orders, whatever pleasure they may take in aping the manners of fashionable society, have, nevertheless, not yet been able to give themselves up to the tedious style of dancing—of dancing only in appearance—which prevails there. The dancing of the lower classes has still its reality, though unfortunately it is a reality of too loose a description. I hardly know how to express the strange feeling of sadness which takes possession of me whenever I observe the dancing of the people in the places of public amusement, above all, in Carnival time. There an exaggerated, noisy, shrieking music forms the accompaniment of dances which all border more or less on the *caneen*. I hear the question put to me, "What is the *caneen*?" Good heavens, I am wanted to give the *Anglo-Saxon Gazette* a definition of the *caneen*! Well, let it be so! The *caneen* is a dance which is never executed in polite society, but only in localities of doubtful respectability, where the gentleman who dances it and the lady by whom it is danced, find themselves immediately seized upon by the police and shown to the door. I do not know whether this definition sufficiently explains a thing which it is somewhat difficult to define, but after all it is not necessary that people in Germany should understand in what the *caneen* of the public balls in Paris really consists. The celebrated Vestris used to say that a great dancer must be a virtuous man. It will be understood from my definition that the virtue recommended by the late Vestris is not absolutely *de rigueur* in the execution of this dance, since the French people, even when dancing, are incommoded by the armed intervention of the State. . . . The constant participation of the police in the pleasures of the people is a singular abuse; and foreigners are always astonished when they remark at the public balls several police agents or Municipal Guards by the side of each quadrille, and watching with a careful and censorious eye over the morality of the dancers. It is almost inconceivable how the people can preserve their mirthful gaiety and their mad infatuation for dancing beneath this disgraceful inspection. But French frivolity executes its most joyful gambols at the very moment when it is confined in a strait waistcoat; and although the severe eye of the police may prevent the *caneen* from being danced with undisguised cynicism, the dancers of the *bastringues* contrive, nevertheless, to express their prohibited ideas by means of all sorts of ironical *entrechats*, by the most amusing gestures of exaggerated decency. In my opinion public morality does not gain a great deal by Government controlling the dancing of the people with so much ostentation; forbidden fruit always tempts the most, and the refined and often witty expedients which are employed for the sake of eluding the choreographic censorship produce a more pernicious effect than the evil which it is intended to repress. This surveillance of the popular amusements characterises in fact the state of things in France, and shows to what extent the French have succeeded in conquering their liberty. I repeat that I am always overcome with an unspeakable sadness when I see the people dancing in the places of amusement in Paris; and it is thus, above all, during the Carnival, when the wild masquerading carries the demoniacal joy to an extremity which makes me shudder. I was almost seized with horror in assisting latterly at one of the splendid night fêtes which are given at the Opéra Comique, where the whirlpool of the Carnival rages with a fury and magnificence which are unknown at the masked balls of the Grand Opéra. There Beelzebub presides over the orchestra, and produces a deafening music which tears our ears, while the piercing light of the gas dazzles us, and tortures our eyes, like the flames of eternity. There is the Lost Valley of which the nurse has related to us such fearful legends, there dance the sorceresses in all their bewitchment, as on the mountain of the Brocken, during the Walpurgis-night, and more than one of them is pretty, and in all her perversity cannot entirely throw off the grace natural to these French enchantresses. But when the trumpets at last announce the last galop, the terrible round, then the satanic hubbub reaches the climax of its madness; one fancies that the ceiling of the ball-room is about to open, and that suddenly, through the cleft in the roof, the whole of the infernal assembly will take its flight on broomsticks, pairs of tongs, pitchforks, large wooden spoons, or upon goats with human faces, or upon men with goats' faces, and other devices of witchcraft, shrieking, yelling, vociferating the consecrated words "Oeben hinaus nirgend an!" This is the dangerous moment when the stranger from the other side of the Rhine, who understands nothing of magic, might get lost in the fatal whirlpool, if by chance he did not recollect the old German prayer of his grandmother, which must be recited in a low voice when beautiful French witches threaten to drag you into eternal perdition.

Instead of reciting the prayer of his grandmother—a kind of process, by-the-by, which is being rendered familiar to all Europe by Catherine's frequent introduction of the maternal prayer in the "Etoile du Nord"—we should advise the youthful and inexperienced stranger, in default of staying at home, to remember the precept contained in a pious German ballad of the Middle Ages, which tells us, in the first place, that "dancing is accursed." "When you see any one dancing," adds the song writer, "think of the bleeding head of John the Baptist in the platter, and the infernal temptation will then have no power over your soul."

With regard to the kind of dancing alluded to by Heine, and to which he appears to attach too symbolic an import, we must confess that we have always contented ourselves with looking upon its grotesque side; and whatever evil there may be, morally speaking, in paying but an infinitesimal amount of attention to decorum, the evil is considerably lessened by the evidently comic intention with which the questionable dancing of the Parisian balls is executed. Were it not for this comic intention to which we attach so much importance, "hunt-the-slipper," the game of "forfeits," and the whole list of so-called *jeux innocents* would be in the last degree improper. That the comic intention of the Parisian dancer is not always realised is doubtless unfortunate; but, in such a case, instead of accusing the incapable executant of cold-blooded immorality, we feel inclined to lay the blame at the foot of his professor of Terpsichorean gaiety; for the art of dancing in society with unbecoming liveliness is at present imparted to the juvenile aspirant by properly-qualified masters in six lessons. The solemn expression of countenance which is preserved by the dancer in the midst of his telegraphic attitudes and frog-like movements, excites the surprise of the foreigner, and frequently leads him to form the opinion that the executant is serious in his eccentricity. Serious eccentricity is, however, nothing less than madness; whereas many of the persons who are in the habit of dancing at the public balls of Paris are quite as near sanity as the rest of mankind. The fact is, that the contrast between the seriousness of the countenance and the grotesque movements of the body is intended to produce a mirthful effect—the principle, however, being generally observed, as the French tragic writers observed the unities, without any one inquiring much into the reasonableness of doing so.

The orgies of the Carnival balls now no longer exist, except in the works of Balzac and Gavarni—in which everything is living—and in the recollection of the young men of 1830, who have eaten Borel's dinners at the Rocher de Cancale, fought the battles of Victor Hugo at the Théâtre Français, and carried Musard in triumph at the balls of the Opéra. At present the Rocher de Cancale is unknown; Victor Hugo, less fortunate than his verses, which can never be excluded from France, is in exile;

and Musard, after becoming the Mayor of a suburban village, where the inhabitants, if they had attempted one of his *galopades*, would infallibly have broken their legs, has been succeeded by an only son who, whatever else he may inherit, will never possess an atom of his father's talent.

The most magnificent dancing entertainments now given in and near Paris are decidedly those of the public gardens, and among these the Ball of Asnières is entitled to the first place. The *al fresco* balls possess three distinct advantages over those of the Opéra (we say nothing of the detestable Salle Valentine and Salle Cécile). As it is impossible to fill the gardens with the sound, your ears are safe; as it is impossible to fill them with light, your eyes are safe; and as it is difficult to fill them with human beings, your lungs are comparatively safe—in any case far safer than at the Opéra where the odour of the gas and the exhalations of three thousand individuals in a confined space are sufficient to produce asphyxia with persons who have not been made thoroughly ball-proof. Accordingly, Asnières is now considered the most fashionable of all the Parisian balls, that is to say, it is considered so by persons who consider it fashionable to go to such places at all. The beauty of the garden of Asnières, and its proximity to the Seine, which at Asnières is so charming a stream, and which although it connects in a slight manner the largest city on the Continent with the sea, has the advantage of being unnavigable, except for pleasure-boats; the merits of the *friture*, which has given celebrity to the Asnières restaurants, to say nothing of the excellence of the inevitable *omelette au rhum*, which has certainly not detracted from their fame; the splendour and depth of the Asnières swimming-bath; and, above all, the rapidity with which the little suburb can be reached at all reasonable (and many unreasonable) hours of the day and night, combine to render it one of the most frequented places in the environs of Paris.

Frederic Soulié divided the Parisian restaurants into two great classes—those where people went to dine, and those where people went to feast. The *Trois Frères Provençaux* and the large dining-places at the barriers to which we have called attention above would equally belong to the latter class. In the same category we must place the restaurants of Asnières, which are much esteemed by the Parisian excursionist. In the first place, because they are expensive; and in the second, because they can supply, at a few moments' notice, any amount of fried gudgeons.

The comparatively high prices charged at the Asnières restaurants are explained by the fact of their being almost entirely without customers during the winter months—a privation for which the proprietors are obliged to console themselves by making the most of those who present themselves during the summer. The excursionist is, therefore, in error when he asserts that they are dear because they are good, and equally distant from the truth when he imagines, if he does not say so, that they are unusually good because they happen to be dear.

We have nothing to say against the gudgeons, which have always been fresh and generally delicious when we have been brought into contact with them. The gudgeon is the Parisian fish *par excellence*, and holds a position to which the diminutive craw-fish and the mud-sprung eel—the only other fish of metropolitan origin—can never hope to attain. Equally in demand among the most fashionable of the *canotiers* who navigate the Seine in the direction of Meudon and Asnières, and the lowest of the *chiffonniers* who prowl about the precincts of the *halles*, the gudgeon is at once the whitebait and the whelk of Parisian society. It makes its appearance, like *pallida mors*, at the huts of the poor and the castles of the rich; and we are astonished that the Parisians, who are so proud of their unnavigable river, with its three different kinds of fish, have never adopted it as the emblem of Equality—in which case we would suggest that the eel, on account of the difficulty which is experienced in holding it, should be taken as the symbol of Liberty; while Fraternity could of course be represented by the crawfish with its highly-expressive claws. The general popularity of the gudgeon has not only been uninjured by half-a-dozen revolutions, but has even survived the introduction by railway of gigantic rivals such as the salmon of the Loire and the turbot of the Norman coast. If fish can ever get used to anything, the Parisian gudgeon must by this time be accustomed to being fried in batter. Curled up as it generally has appeared to us, with the tip of its tail brought into contact with those minute beads which perform the functions of eyes, the gudgeon, in addition to being the symbol of equality, might also form a fitting emblem of eternity, or, at all events, of Parisian eternity, which of course does not last so long as eternity in the abstract. At least it will take us back to the days of Rabelais, or, earlier still, to those of young Gargantua, who, we are told, was in the habit of catching them, and we presume eating them, during his holiday visits to Vannes.

Although the balls of Asnières have the advantage of taking place in the open air, and of finishing for the most part at a tolerably early hour, there are certain occasions when, under pretence of obliging foreign visitors, and paying a compliment to some eminent guest at the French Court, the directors organise a *fête de nuit*, which is understood to be continued until the next morning. The fête usually consists of illuminations, fireworks, a lottery—at which you have a remote chance of gaining a box of bonbons or a bouquet, and a proximate one of becoming entitled to two gloves for the left hand, or a wooden spoon—a concert, and, of course, a ball. Late in the night this ball assumes the madström-like character of the old balls of the Opéra Comique, and the music, by degrees, acquires a resemblance to the celebrated Norwegian melody known to the students of Runic mysteries as the "Strømkarl," of which ten variations only can be played. Each succeeding variation has a more dance-inspiring effect than its predecessor; and there is, in fact, an eleventh variation, the performance of which would, however, be attended with the most awful consequences. No sooner is it heard—says the legend—than the whole of nature becomes agitated; the mountains and rocks dance, and the houses dance, and in the houses dance the chairs and tables, the grandfather seizes the grandmother and dances with her, the dog dances with the cat, and even the infant jumps out of its cradle and dances. We need hardly say that the eleventh variation has never been played at Asnières, for Asnières has not yet been destroyed by an earthquake; but sometimes during a *fête de nuit*, and towards four in the morning, the orchestra, to judge from the effect upon the dancers, must certainly have been far advanced in the performance of the tenth.

THE KERTCH REFUGEES AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—A Russian family from Kertch, viz., father, mother, and daughter, presented themselves at the Porte to embrace Islamism, it being intended that the daughter should afterwards be married to a Turkish officer, who lately returned from Yenikale, where he met her. There was some hesitation about receiving them, and M. Koller, the Austrian Ambassador, claimed them as subjects of his Government, and the question is settled. They are poor people, and perhaps thought by this strange step to better their condition. There are at Constantinople at present 513 families from Kertch: twenty-four are of the orthodox faith; the rest are Poles, Jews, Greeks, with a sprinkling of Armenians. There are also seven German families, who fled from Galicia during the revolution of Hungary. The males are all artisans, who find plenty of employment; and the Turkish Government, exclusive of what they can earn by their handicraft, allows each adult sixpence, and each child, of whom there are 115, threepence per day. Yesterday, to obtain the above details, I visited the Kertch colony. They inhabit the small suburb of Zenicheir, beyond Pera, and appear to be very content with their condition. A doctor, specially employed by the Government, visits the sick every morning, and medicines are supplied gratis. Like all Russians, they appear to be great drinkers of tea. They said that they left Kertch to escape from the barbarous treatment inflicted upon them by the Tartars.—*Letter from Constantinople.*

BANKRUPTCY OF MESSRS. STRAHAN, PAUL, AND BATES.—On Monday last, the High Ashurst estate, the residence and property of Mr. Strahan, the bankrupt, was offered at public auction, at the Auction Mart, by Messrs. Davis and Johnstone, by direction of the assignees with the concurrence of the mortgagees. Some time elapsed before an offer could be obtained for the property, and it appeared that diffidence on the part of those present to bid arose from the circumstance that the original deeds deducing the title to the late Mr. Andrew Strahan, in 1804, are lost or mislaid, and cannot be found, although the strictest search has been made for them. The vendors undertook to produce a statutory declaration, proving the possession of the property by Mr. Andrew Strahan and the present owner for a period of upwards of forty years, and also a declaration by the bankrupt that he had not parted with the deeds on the occasion of any sale or mortgage. It was suggested by a gentleman present that the whole of the partners should join in a similar declaration, which was assented to by the auctioneer, and the sale then proceeded. The estate is situated near Barking, in Surrey, and consists of the manor of High Ashurst, a modern mansion in the Italian style, replete with every requisite for an nobleman or gentleman's seat, surrounded with pleasure grounds and gardens, with extensive walks and roads, affording the most delightful views, and three farm-houses, comprising 682 acres of frechold, arable, meadow, wood, and ornamental land. The auctioneer stated that Mr. Strahan had expended on the house and grounds £35,000. The first offer made was £15,000, and it was knocked down at £27,000. The lease of the Headley-heath Farm, comprising 171 acres, with the right of shooting over 1062 acres of land in the manor of Headley, was taken by the purchaser of the above-mentioned property, to which it adjoins, at a price named by the vendors, and no sale therefore took place.

"Minnie," one of Madame Thillon's favourite songs, has been the subject of litigation in the Vice-Chancellor's Court. Mr. Chappell applied for an injunction against the publisher of the "Musical Bouquet" for publishing a song called "Minnie Dale," with a portrait of Madame Thillon, and the words "sung at Thillon's concerts." The defendant argued that the original song was American, and that Mr. Chappell had no property in it. The Vice-Chancellor intimated his intention of granting the injunction.

THE SILENT MEMBER.—(No. XXIX.)

THE Lords have acted with the good sense they frequently exhibit in deferring to public opinion, and have suspended one of their Standing Orders for the express purpose of promoting a bill the passing of which has been proved to be necessary for the public convenience. The new Beer Bill will probably have passed before these words are published, and a very sore subject will, for the present, remain at rest; though further legislation, or, rather, unlegislation, will probably be found requisite. Until the principle which I contended for some months ago is practically carried out, and the Legislature interferes to prevent abuse, without in any way restricting use, the law must be considered imperfect, and there will be continual calls for its amendment. There are very few among our statesmen or politicians who have a clear perception of the sphere and duties of Government. Over-legislation is one of the faults of the present system; and there is sometimes more danger in doing too much than in doing too little. There is some little mistake in the notion that Acts of Parliament are of no use in dealing with questions of morality, for, if the proposition were true, it would apply to nearly all law, and pickpockets might as well be left to the restraint of their own moral sense, inasmuch as the offence of picking pockets is after all nothing but a breach of the laws of morality. Perhaps it will be contended that there is such a thing as "abstract morality," with which the Legislature ought not to interfere; but every breach of a moral law is calculated to do injury to some one or other, on arriving at a certain point, and that is the point which it is the duty of the Government to ascertain and to deal with. Nobody denies that drunkenness is hurtful to society, but everybody except the Maine-law enthusiasts will acknowledge that it is not a legitimate mode of action to prohibit temperate enjoyment for the purpose of preventing drunkenness. The new measure for removing a part of the restriction caused by the act of last Session is a measure of expediency rather than of principle. It leaves the question, "What is a traveller?" as unsettled as it was before, inasmuch as the omission of the words *bona fide*, which were generally treated as surplusage, will, in fact, take nothing from the difficulty of definition which has been felt by the magistrates. The true theory of legislation on this as on all other subjects is to leave all parties free to do as they please, and to interfere only when the pleasure of one would lead to the injury of another. Publicans and others should be allowed to open and shut their houses whenever it might be convenient to themselves to do so, and they would find it to their interest to meet demand with supply, just as demand is met in all other trades with reference to which no legislation has been thought requisite. Publicans would consult their own and their customers' mutual convenience as to the hours of opening and shutting, which ought in principle to be liable to no restriction except such as the parties concerned in the matter would very soon accommodate themselves to from a sense of the reciprocity of advantages. I have dwelt at some length on a topic which the reader may think might be more summarily dealt with, but the remarks I have made apply not only to the Beer Bill, but to the whole subject of legislation, which will never give perfect satisfaction until the principle above put forth is practically as well as theoretically recognised.

Among the things to be undone in the Lords may be reckoned the Standing Order prohibiting the House from taking into consideration any bill sent up after a certain period of the Session from the Commons. This rule has already been found inconvenient; and indeed it is rather beneath the dignity of the Peers to fetter their own discretion by a regulation which is afterwards disregarded. The House ought not to put itself into such a position that it must either violate its own rule or have to reply to an argument of urgency by saying—"No; we said we wouldn't, and therefore we won't, legislate after a certain day." The law, however necessary, must be put off until next Session." It is to be hoped that the Peers will see the matter in its true light, and wisely abrogate a restriction which can have no effect but to fetter themselves in the exercise of their own judgment. If the Standing Order was intended to influence the Commons, and induce the Lower House to expedite business, the plan has evidently failed, for a great deal of legislation has been left to the last in the usual manner. It is for the Lords to look separately at each bill that is sent up, and to take the necessary time for deliberation on each, when, if the Session is prolonged by the operation, the Commons will, of course, share the inconvenience. No bill ought to be hurried through in either House for the purpose of bringing the Session to an end; and, if this principle were conscientiously acted on, those who have charge of the public business would get into the habit of bringing it forward in proper time, and Parliament would get into the habit of attending to it at an early period.

Considering that "time" has really been precious during the week, it was hardly justifiable of Lord John Russell to occupy a large portion of Tuesday night with a speech remarkable for little more than the contrast between its abundance of words and paucity of matter. If it was intended to give hints to the Ministry for carrying on the Government during the recess, such a lesson comes with very little authority from one who has failed as a member of three recent Cabinets. Lord John Russell, if he had happened to have been the "right man," has had every chance of settling into "the right place" for he has been thrust into so many that, if he really possessed a capacity for Government—or rather continued to possess the capacity he formerly displayed—he must have found the fitting field for its exercise. So great have been his opportunities of showing his fitness for office, that he seems to have had for some time the refusal of a "reserved seat" in the Cabinet. Having recently fallen short in every office he has undertaken, it is not likely that the public or his late colleagues will be induced to accept his volunteered counsel in his anomalous position of amateur adviser of the Government. If Lord John Russell has any political talent remaining, it would seem to consist in the ability to break up Administrations and set the members by the ears, rather than in teaching them how to act together.

Not very long ago a place was resigned by Mr. Lowe, the member for Kidderminster, who has just accepted a higher office than the one he formerly held, and who, in his new capacity of Vice-President of the Board of Trade, may be supposed to have obtained the reward of his ambition. During his short political career this gentleman has shown considerable capacity for serving himself, added to a great apparent desire to serve his country. It is to be hoped that the interests of both will be found to be identical. Of course, the Government will no longer experience the effects of his opposition, which, however, has not been of a very damaging kind, for Mr. Lowe has not generally been on the winning side when he has been in opposition. It is to be presumed that his services have been accepted on the ground that they will be valuable, for it is impossible to suppose that Lord Palmerston has thought it necessary to take Mr. Lowe out of the ranks of the enemy. The Government may be said, however, to have sustained a real loss in the secession of Mr. Baines from the Poor-law Board, of which he has been for some years the able and popular President. The late Charles Buller was the first to redeem the Poor-law Board from the bad odour into which it had fallen. And it is no small praise to Mr. Baines to say that he has continued to obtain for the department over which he has presided the good reputation it acquired under his very distinguished predecessor. It will be indeed a loss to the public service if the retirement of Mr. Baines from official life is to be permanent, for he is one of those few politicians who have maintained an independent position while consenting to hold a place in the Government. He is one of the class to which Sir William Molesworth, and perhaps Sir Benjamin Hall, may be said to belong; but it is a class as yet so few in number that not one can be spared; and there is no other who would have been so much missed as the retiring President of the Poor-law Board.

INDIAN FINANCE AND INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

ON Tuesday evening the President of the Board of Control submitted to the House of Commons the customary annual statement of his department. There is a deficiency in the revenue, always a subject of regret, but this is more than compensated by the activity displayed in the improvements of public works, especially railroads and telegraphs. We are at peace with all our neighbours, and no present danger is apprehended from the intrigues of Russia on the frontiers of our Indian empire. It is also satisfactory to state that Administrative Reform has really commenced in the appointment of the civil servants of the Company, and been carried out in a wise and honest spirit. Such are the main facts embodied in the speech of Mr. Vernon Smith, and we shall now proceed to the details.

The financial accounts submitted to the House of Commons relate to the years 1852-53; but a promise was given that in the next Session they will be made up to April, 1855. They are divided into four heads, embracing the Presidencies of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay, and the Government of the North-Western Provinces. The aggregate revenues are put down at £20,351,279; the aggregate charges amount to £15,273,563; thus showing a surplus of £5,133,716. But from this a large deduction must be made—first for the interest of the Indian debt, which abstracts £2,011,971; secondly, for the charges defrayed in England, which figure for £2,697,488; both included swell up to £4,709,459, leaving the net surplus of income over expenditure only £424,457.

In comparing the actual results of 1852-53 with the estimate for 1854-55, the latter exhibits a deficiency of £3,094,775, made up of two items, which must be carefully separated. The real deficiency, obtained from contrasting the decrease with the increase of revenue in 1854-55, is only £226,245, but the net increase of expenditure in that period over the expenditure in 1852-53 amounts to £2,868,530—which, as we shall presently see, is an investment in public works, from which it is only fair to conclude that future benefit will be derived adequate to the immediate outlay. Thus viewed, the financial statement ought not to cause alarm, as the real deficit is under a quarter of a million, mainly caused by the civil war in China, which has diminished the consumption of opium. In 1852-53 there was an increase on that article of £700,000, but in 1854-55 there is a decrease of £448,840. In the excise-duty on salt there has been an increase of £145,727; and Mr. Vernon Smith expressed a hope that the land revenue would be improved by the adoption of superior modes of culture.

The great item of increased outlay in British India is the payment of the troops. The native army is put down at £918,986; her Majesty's troops figure for £46,203; transport of troops and stores, £51,699; furlough and retired military pay, £62,418. There is an increase for the Indian navy of £50,646, and for furlough and retired marine pay, £3893; the arms furnished to her Majesty's troops going to India figure for £6240. Comparing, then, 1852-53 with 1854-55, the naval and military expenditure of the latter period has exceeded that of the former by £1,089,439. The army in India amounts to 320,000 men, and it appears that many of the officers have volunteered for service in the Crimea.

The public works are next to be considered, on which an increased expenditure has been bestowed. This subject will be better understood by comparing past negligence with recent activity. In a minute signed by Lord Dalhousie on the 26th April, 1854, it appears that there was an absolute necessity for 3227 miles of main lines of communication. At that time from seventy to ninety miles were finished and metalled; there was a good fair-weather road with bridges over small streams for 774; a bad road without any bridge for 438; and for the remaining 1925 miles there was either no road at all or nothing deserving a better name than a footpath. Since the date of that minute a very great change has been effected. Mr. Vernon Smith made the following statement:—

That the East India Railway was sanctioned as far as Delhi, and contracted for as far as Allahabad, 590 miles, and was to be completed by the end of the year 1856; it was opened as far as Raneegunge, fifty-six miles from the Calcutta and Delhi line, near Burdwan, and distant from Calcutta 125 miles; the works on the line from Calcutta to Rajmahal, on the Ganges, were in a very forward state as far as the More River, a distance of sixty miles from the Raneegunge and Burdwan Junction. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway was sanctioned to Shawpore; it was opened to Callian, thirty-five miles from Bombay; and contracted for and ready for opening as far as Wadindree, about twelve miles beyond Callian. The South-Eastern extension, which was to diverge from Callian, was sanctioned to Poonah, eighty-five miles; and contracted for to Campoolie, at the foot of the Bhore Ghaut. No part of the Madras Railway was yet opened, but the line from Madras, which was to diverge to the north-west of Bellary, in the direction of Bombay, was surveyed and partly set out; the line from Madras to the south-west was set out in its whole extent to Beypore, on the western or Malabar coast; it was difficult to ascertain the precise state of the works, as they were in course of construction by the railway engineers themselves; but Major Pears expected that the line to the western coast would be open for traffic by the close of the present year; the first part of the works on the line towards Bombay was also in a forward state. The Scinde Railway was sanctioned from the harbour of Kurrachee to the Indus, at or near to Jurruck, a distance of 110 miles. The Baroda and Central India Railway was sanctioned from Surat to Boroda, and thence to Ahmedabad, a distance of 163 miles.

This statement is highly gratifying. In this immense territory railways are the most powerful auxiliaries to production, as they bring markets within reach of the most distant points; while in the transport of troops, without fatigue, to any position menaced by an enemy, their value is incalculable. But not only have railways been commenced on a grand scale; a line of telegraphs has been completed, extending over 3500 miles, at a cost of only £30 per mile, by the aid of which the Governor-General, whether resident at Calcutta or elsewhere, can almost instantaneously receive intelligence from the extremities of the empire.

British India is at peace, nor is it likely to be disturbed. Our relations with the King of Ava are satisfactory. We have concluded an advantageous treaty with Cabul. A friendly spirit prevails at Nepal. Every thing is tranquil at Oude. Russia has failed to weaken British influence in Persia. We are on excellent terms with the Khan of Khiva, who is aware that the resources of Russia are greatly weakened.

It has long been suspected that torture was employed in British India, though contradicted by official authority. Mr. Vernon Smith, however, more candid and truthful than his predecessors, confessed that this most infamous practice prevailed in the Presidency of Madras, where it was resorted to by creditors to enforce the payment of rent; and he was not prepared to say that all the European officials were free from blame. He expressed his horror of this cruelty, and pledged himself that it should be completely abolished.

The next subject touched upon was Administrative Reform. By the Act of 1853 the Civil Service of India had been thrown open to public competition amongst all British-born subjects, and an examination of candidates took place in last May. There were 113 candidates. The proceedings were thus described:—

They drew lots for a number by which each should distinguish his papers; and by that number only were they known to the examiners. Of those candidates, there came from Cambridge University, 32; Oxford, 19; London, 6; King's College, 2; Harrow School, 1; other schools, 13; Trinity College, Dublin, 14; Queen's College, Cork, 6; Queen's College, Galway, 2; other Irish schools, 2; Scotch Universities and Colleges, 12; other Scotch schools, 3; and two more educated abroad. The examinations lasted twelve days. The numbers of the successful candidates were—from Oxford, 8; Csh bridge, 6; London University, 2; King's College, London, 1; Queen's College, Cork, 1; Queen's College, Galway, 1; Edinburgh University, 1; making a total of 20. The highest of the candidates obtained 2254 marks, and the London University claimed him as an *alumnus*. The lowest of the successful candidates had 1120. The three best English scholars had been elected; the seven best classical scholars; the two best in modern foreign languages; the best in natural science; and two of the best in moral science (three were equal); but not the best nor the second best in mathematics.

It was further stated that a system of national education for the natives of India is to be enforced. The whole educational department in each Presidency is to be under one head, the Director of Public Instruction, with about six Inspectors under him; and a Committee has been appointed to found universities, on a uniform plan, at Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. Looking, then, at the whole statement of Indian affairs, we recognise marked symptoms of progress, and earnestly hope that there may be no relaxation in the new system so auspiciously commenced.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

VON H., Brussels.—I. An early acknowledgment of your interesting communication shall be made by letter. Meanwhile, you will be gratified to learn the most important of the ancient MSS. has safely reached its destination. 2. In re Danya Janot. In the transcript of the "Sensit" you expressed an opinion that it was printed shortly after 1590, but you now appear to think differently. To what date do you assign it? Is it earlier than 1590, 1593, 1594? The games, it must be remembered, are all according to the old style of play; and it seems hardly probable that, after the publication of Damiano's Treatise in 1512, and the four subsequent editions before 1530, that the new mode of play had made no progress in France. According to all the bibliographical authorities we have consulted, the elder Danya Janot printed as early as 1544, but did not die till 1545, in which year his widow and son carried on the business; and his son appears as a printer also in 1556. Brunet gives engravings of two devices of Danya Janot—one of 1529 (much resembling that in the "Sensit," but not exactly the same); and the other, of 1541, very different. Sir Frederic Madden, whom we consider the best living judge upon such points, is of opinion that the "Sensit" was printed by the elder Janot, and is inclined to place it early as 1520. Can you afford us any proof to the contrary?

H. T. L.—McDonnell gave large odds, better than any man of his time. In this faculty he was unrivalled. He might have been inferior in ordinary Chess to Des Chappelles, La Bourdonnais, and Lewis—though, had he lived, he would probably have played up to them; but in giving large odds he surpassed them all. Indeed, it was commonly remarked at the Westminster Chess-club, that McDonnell could yield a Rook and win when La Bourdonnais could barely hold his own in giving a Knight. His great forte and delight was to give a Rook or Knight. At the Pawn and two moves, and Pawn and move, game, his success was not so remarkable; though in these openings (witness his many masterly contests with Popert, Walker, Slous, and others) he exhibited astonishing resource and a degree of patience quite unparalleled.

BIBLIOPOL.—The Chess Library sold at Messrs. Hodgson's, on Monday and Tuesday last, was that of the late Mr. Merder, an opulent and valuable collector of the game. Among them, Caxton's "Game and Play of the Chess" (black letter), 1474; and the celebrated "Repetition de Amores, y Arte de Axodres" of Lucena (black letter), 1495. The Caxton fetched sixty pounds, and the Lucena twenty-one pounds—which, considering there is a lacuna of two pages, may be considered a high price.

M. DE R.—An explanatory and apologetic article was dispatched early in the week. As to the packet so long expected, it has not yet reached its destination.

SIGNOR D., Paris.—It is impossible for us to communicate what you wish to know until you forward an address.

W. and A. N. J. Lila cannot possibly win under such circumstances.

OMEGA.—The season and the war are both deterring influences; but we have no doubt when the provincial clubs resume their sittings a change will be observable.

R. A., Portree.—It appears to be correct.

G. M., Portuguese Legation.—Your inquiry has been forwarded to the proper quarter, and will no doubt meet with attention.

ALPHA; DUCRO; M. D.—We cannot positively say what week the articles by Sir Frederic Madden and Mr. Staunton will commence, but they will not be delayed much longer.

G. W., of Sunbury.—The solution of No. 593 has been mislaid, and we are awaiting another copy of it from Vienna. With regard to Mr. Grimshaw's last, you are right. A Black Rook was unluckily placed at White King's 6th square instead of a White one, and renders the solution impracticable. We shall withhold the key until next week.

J. H., Halifax.—When a Pawn is played to its 8th sq., it becomes, on that move, a new Queen, or other piece.

A. F.—The laws of Chess forbid the two Kings ever standing on adjoining squares.

G. MCA.—They shall have early insertion, being a decided improvement on your former efforts.

G. W.—No one, we can assure you, would look at a position clogged as yours is by needless conditions.

C. M. H., F. D., G. W. T.—They are rather below our standard, though certainly neat and promising.

E. B. C., Hoboken, U.S.—Many thanks and good wishes. The Problems are superior to those formerly sent, and very acceptable. As to the missing journals, they shall be re-posted for the next mail.

A MEMBER, &c.—I. The next gathering of the Northern and Midland Counties Chess Association is fixed to take place at Birmingham, in 1856. 2. Any member of the society is at liberty to suggest an eligible place of meeting, but a proposal for holding the assembly at any town cannot be entertained unless it has the sanction of two or more responsible residents of that town. 3. In the event of any change in the local, we believe that Shrewsbury would be chosen for the trying-place—an offer having early been made by Dr. Kennedy to lend his valuable aid and influence in promoting a meeting there.

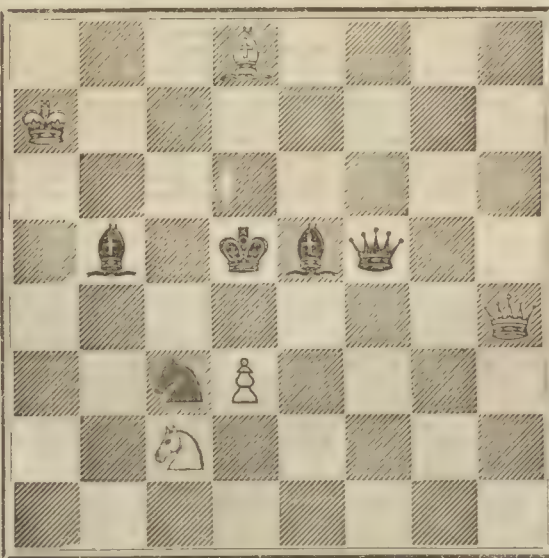
PROBLEM No. 598.

There is an error in the diagram of this position. The Black Rook at Black King's 3rd square should be a White one.

PROBLEM No. 599.

By J. B., of Bridport.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

CHESS IN PARIS.

A stubborn, well-contested game in the late match between MM. LA ROCHE and DE RIVIERE.

(Irregular Opening.)

WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
(M. La Roche.)	(M. de Riviere.)	(M. La Roche.)	(M. de Riviere.)
1. P to Q 4th	P to K 4th	24. K Kt to Q sq	Kt to Q 2nd
2. P to Q 4th	P to Q 4th	25. Q Kt to Q B 3rd	R to K B sq
3. P to Q 5th	P to Q 3rd	26. P to Q Kt 4th	Kt to Q R 3rd
4. Q Kt to Q B 3rd	P to K 4th	27. K to Q Kt 3rd	K to Q Kt 2nd
5. P to K 4th	K Kt to K B 3rd	28. B to K B 3rd	Kt to Q B 2nd (e)
6. K B to Q 3rd	P to K B 5th	29. R to K R 2nd	Q to K Kt 2nd
7. P to K Kt 3rd	P to K Kt 4th (a)	30. Q Kt P takes P	Q Kt P takes P
8. P to K R 4th	B P takes K Kt P	31. K to Q R 2nd	R to Q Kt sq
9. B P takes P	P to K Kt 5th	32. Q Kt to Q R 4th	K to Q R sq
10. Q B to K Kt 5th	P to K R 3rd	33. Q to K sq	Q B to Q 2nd
11. B takes Kt	Q takes B	34. K Kt to Q B 3rd	R to K Kt sq
12. Q to K 2nd	P to K R 4th	35. R to Q Kt 2nd	Q takes P
13. Castles	K B to R 3rd (ch)	36. Q to Q Kt sq	Q to K B 5th
14. K to Q Kt sq	Kt to Q R 3rd	37. R to Q Kt 7th	Q to K 7th (ch)
15. P to Q R 3rd	Q B to Q 2nd	38. K to Q R sq	Q B takes Kt
16. Q to Q B 2nd (b)	Castles (Q's side)	39. Kt takes B	B to K 6th
17. R to K B sq	Q to K 2nd	40. R to Q Kt 3d (f)	B to Q 5th (ch)
18. K Kt to K 2nd	Q R to K B sq	41. Kt to Q Kt 2nd	P to K B 7th
19. Q Kt to his 5th	Kt to Kt sq	42. B to Q 3rd	Q to K 8th
20. K Kt to Q B 3rd	Q R to K B 6th (c)	43. R to Q Kt 3d (g)	Q takes Q (ch)
21. R takes R	P takes R	44. K takes Q	R to K 8th
22. Q to K B 2nd	Q B to K Kt 5th	45. R to K B 3rd	R takes B (ch)
23. K to Q R 2nd (d)	P to Q Kt 3rd		And wins.

(a) For a close opening the present is unusually exciting and spirited. It was the last game, and both players were evidently on their mettle.

(b) Q Kt to his 5th strikes us as a better move, because it would have delayed, if not have altogether prevented, Black's castling safely.

(c) This was undoubtedly a very good move. It compelled White to exchange Rooks at a disadvantage, or to lose precious time in defending his Kt Pawn.

(d) Preparatory to the advance of his Q Kt Pawn.

(e) We confess not quite to understand the policy of this Knight's gyrations. They look as if Black were at a loss to know what to move, and waited for some demonstration from his opponent.

(f) When M. La Roche played his Rook to Q Kt 7th, it was under the mistaken apprehension that he would not be able to tie it, and thus draw the game. The following moves will show at once this could not be done:—

40. R takes Q R P (ch) K takes R 43. Q to Q Kt 6th (ch) K to B sq

41. R to Q Kt 6th (ch) K takes R 44. B to K R 3rd (ch) R to K Kt 5th

42. Q to Q B 6th (ch) K to Kt sq 45. B takes R (ch) P takes B

And now White cannot save the game.

(g) If R to Q sq, then would have followed B takes Kt (ch), &c., &c.

EPITOME OF NEWS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

In all probability the Royal children will go to Balmoral some time before her Majesty and Prince Albert proceed northwards.

The Emperor and Empress of the French are not to return to Biarritz this year; the Emperor having ordered works to be executed in the Villa Eugenie which will render it uninhabitable.

The Countess of Neully is staying at Beaumaris, accompanied by the Duke de Nemours, the Duchess de Nemours, Count d'Eu, Duke d'Alençon, Princess Margarette, and suite.

The Pope has awarded a gold medal to Prince Borghese for importing a "Durham bull."

The Southampton Dock Company have given orders for the construction of a flight of steps for the especial use of her Majesty's landing and embarking at the docks.

Lord John Russell, after making arrangements to leave for Scotland on Tuesday last, has deferred his journey north, and no day is now named for his departure.

The Duchess of Kent will leave London for the north on the 17th inst., and, after spending a day or two in making visits about Edinburgh, will reach Abergeldie Castle, the beautiful Deeside residence of the Duchess, about the 20th.

A letter from Constantinople states that Omer Pacha is on the best terms with Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, and that he has more than once breakfasted with him during his recent stay at Constantinople.

The Junior United Service Club has received a splendid copy of Winterhalter's picture of the Emperor Napoleon III. It is full length and life size. The British public have been made familiar with this picture by the engravings. The likeness is perfect.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., and Mrs. Gladstone, left town on Saturday for the season, for Sir Stephen Glynne's seat, Hawarden Castle, Flintshire.

In addition to the Order of St. Alexandre-Newsy, conferred by the Emperor Alexander on his negotiator, Prince Gortschakoff, his Imperial Majesty has appointed Mlles. Sophie and Olga Gortschakoff Maids of Honour to the Empress.

Lord John Russell paid a visit to Stroud last week, and proceeded to inspect the mansion at Rodborough, late the property of Sir John Dean Paul, of which it is said his Lordship will become the purchaser.

The Emperor of the French has presented to Messrs. Staples, of the Albion, Aldersgate-street, two very handsome diamond and pearl breastpins, in testimony of the taste and beauty of the dessert-plate, wine-glasses, &c., supplied by them to the Guildhall banquet.

The King of Portugal received, on the 2nd instant, at a private audience, M. Barrot, French Minister at Brussels. The King likewise gave an audience to M. Lambert, agent of Messrs. Rothschild. In the evening a grand dinner in honour of the King was given by the King of the Belgians at Laeken.

The tenantry of the Earl of St. Germans have erected a tablet in the venerable church of St. Germans to the memory of the Hon. G. C. C. Elliot, second son of his Lordship, who lost his life in the battle of Inkerman.

Prince Danielo has obtained leave from the Court of St. Petersburg that six young Montenegrins shall be received gratuitously into the military institutions of that city.

Lord Howden has remitted from Paris, where he now is, a donation of 1000 francs for the relief of the sufferers from cholera in the city of Granada.

A "Dudley Coutts Stuart Ward" is proposed in Middlesex Hospital, in memory of the late Lord Dudley Stuart.

Count Alexander de Girardin died a few days ago in Paris, in his seventy-ninth year. He leaves a son, the distinguished editor of the *Revue*.

Lord South, who retired from the 79th Highlanders about a year ago, has re-entered that regiment as Ensign without purchase.

M. Louis Batissier, Vice-Consul of France at Suez, has sent to the Museum of the Louvre a papyrus nearly 2000 years old. It contains a fragment of the 18th Book of Homer's *Iliad*.

Dr. Southwood Smith is to have £300 a year, by way of compensation for the loss of his office as a member of the late Board of Health, instead of a gratuity of £1000 as originally proposed.

Two French exhibitors have offered the produce of the sale, one of a billiard-table, and the other of a handsome iron bedstead, to Prince Napoleon, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the army of the East.

Mlle. Rosa Bonheur's picture of "The Horse Fair" is sold to an Englishman—but not a resident in England—for a trifle under £2000.

General and Madame Cavaignac were at Strasbourg on the 3rd inst., on their way to Baden.

The late M. Salomon Rothschild, of Paris, has left a fortune of two millions and a half pounds sterling, which will be divided between his two nephews.

The following were the ten candidates proposed for election as foreign associates of the French Academy of Science, on the occasion of Sir John Herschel's election:—Four are British—Herschel, Airy, Murchison, Owen; five are German—Ehrenberg, Liebig, Muller (of Berlin), Struve (of Pultowa), Wohler (of Gottingen); and one Italian—Plana (of Turin).

At the Odessa theatre (still crowded nightly) Alexandre Dumas' piece "La Dame aux Camellias" is an especial favourite.

Half the capital of the new company of French "clippers" (Admiral Casy and Rothschild's company), which was started to rival the English boats, is subscribed by English people.

The sufferers by the bombardment and destruction of Greytown have arrived at New York, to urge their claims for indemnity. These claims amount to about five millions of dollars.

Austria proposes, it is said, to introduce into all parts of her empire a uniform system of weights and measures.

The guardians of the West London Union have unanimously petitioned the City Corporation to erect baths and washhouses for the poor in their district.

Of the twelve gates of Rome, only three are now held by the French—i.e., the Cavalleggeri, leading to Civita Vecchia; the Porta del Popolo, leading to Tuscany and Romagna; and the Porta San Giovanni, on the road to Naples.

The new entrance-fee to the Paris Exhibition Palace are:—On Monday, 20c.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1 fr.; and Friday, 2 fr. One hundred and eight thousand persons visited the Exhibition on Sunday last.

The Gaol Committee of Aldermen are still advertising for a Governor of Newgate. The salary will be £400 per annum, a house free of rates and taxes, and coals, candles, and gas-lights allowed.

Each Portuguese contributes 34 reals per annum to the customs revenue; whilst each Spaniard only contributes one third of that sum.

The workmen engaged at the Anstruther Easter Harbour have within the past few days discovered two gold coins in excellent preservation, one of which bears date 1593, and is a coin of James VI.

The private secretary of the French Minister of Finance waited upon the Lord Mayor last Saturday for the purpose of conveying an invitation to his Lordship and family to be present in Paris during the period of the approaching visit of her Majesty to that city, and he at the same time placed at his Lordship's disposal the Ministerial residence.

A woman has been stabbed in Manchester by a jealous husband—a publican named Galloway—who has been committed for trial.

The main line of the public works of Pennsylvania was put up for sale at auction in the Merchants' Exchange at Philadelphia, a fortnight ago, but no bid being offered at the minimum price of seven-and-a-half millions, as required by law, the sale was stopped.

Owing to the fierce competition which is going on between the Lancashire and Yorkshire Company and the East Lancashire Company, the fare from Liverpool to Southport and back is only one shilling. Placards have been extensively issued by both companies, each asserting that their lines respectively are the shortest.

Among the first acts passed by the Kansas Legislature was a bill to prevent the sale of intoxicating drinks and gambling within one mile of the capital.

An excursion party, consisting of gentlemen from Glasgow, travelling from Malta to Egypt, across the desert from Jaffa to Jerusalem and the Holy Places, are now on their way to Constantinople and Sebastopol.

Negotiations are now going on between Austria and Montenegro respecting the surrender of criminal fugitives who have found an asylum in the latter country.

The Hamburg Senate has refused to grant a charter for the establishment of the new Bank of North Germany.

The closing of the Paris Exhibition is fixed for the 31st October. Nevertheless there is a question at present, if not of prolonging it, at least of leaving it open for two months longer; in other words, to allow the exhibitors time to effect the sale of their goods.

MEETING OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND, AT CARLISLE.



MR. R. BOOTH'S SHORT-HORNED BULL (CLASS 1, NO. 8), FIRST PRIZE, £30.

LORD BERWICK'S HEREFORD OX (CLASS 1, NO. 105), FIRST PRIZE, £30.

(Continued from page 181.)

they are at least next in public favour to them; and now and then we see single specimens of the breed almost unequalled in size and quality. As a breed, they are perhaps second to none in arriving at a profitable maturity under disadvantageous pasturage. They seem well adapted for sweet pasturage, of moderate quality, upon which they thrive faster than the Short-horns; but in their thrifty growth under all circumstances they are inferior to them. They possess great beauty of colour and frame, and are exceedingly good graziers and milkers. We hope they will be long perpetuated and improved.

The Devon classes are much under the usual average, twenty-three animals only being shown, whereas the average of the past nine years is fifty-one. Neither are there many animals of great merit amongst them. They possess qualities undeniably great; every ounce of flesh appears adapted for roasting, small in proportions, perfect in symmetry, and admirably adapted for fattening on inferior pasturage: but, much as we admire their frame and beauty, we cannot think them a profitable breed. We should, however, be sorry to miss

them. Why they should have as much money allotted to them in prizes as the Short-horn classes is a problem yet to be solved, and that deserves the serious consideration of the Council.

The chief strength of the Sheep show was with the Leicesters, Cheviots, and Black-faced Mountaineers—to all of which the breeders on and over the Border very largely contributed. The entry of Shearling Lambs was very large, while it was almost as remarkable for uniform excellence. Our Scotch friends appear now to depend less and less on a large coarse sheep, and proportionately more on purity of breed. Compared with the other Long-wools or Cotswolds, of which there was but a short show, the Leicester has a very refined look, and from what could be gathered the comparison was altogether in his favour. There is still no denying that the Cotswolds are extraordinary sheep, the size of some of them being really "prodigious." The entries here were mostly from their own head-quarters in Gloucestershire.

In the Cheviots and Mountain Sheep, the north was unquestionably better represented than in any other of those classes in which breeders from those districts might have been expected to distinguish themselves. As special

prizes, both sorts were eminently successful—the black-faced twisted-horned mountain sheep, giving a local character to the meeting, that should have been further carried out by a better display of the rough-coated Highland cattle. Nothing can be more different than these two varieties of sheep, while to the eye of the stranger, the Cheviot looks by far the more useful of the two. Still, for a hard life, there is said to be nothing like a mountain flock.

The Southdowns gave way to the Leicesters, and the show of them was consequently but a small one. They included, however, many of our best breeders—the Duke of Richmond, Lord Walsingham, Lord Chichester, Mr. Rigden, and Mr. Luger. Mr. Jonas Webb's entries were not sent; but his sheep were becomingly represented by Mr. Rigden, who took three out of the four prizes for rams with sheep bred directly from the Babraham flock. In the ewes, Mr. Luger had a pen of five very beautiful and nicely-matched, which deservedly held the head place in their class, being well backed by two good selections from Lord Walsingham's, though by no means of so high a caste as the first-prize pen.

The Pigs were chiefly remarkable for the immense size which some of them



MR. E. FERGUSON'S THOROUGH-BRED STALLION (CLASS 1, NO. 783), PRIZE, £40.

MESSRS. E. AND M. READ'S STALLION (CLASS 1, NO. 179), FIRST PRIZE, £30.

MEETING OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND, AT CARLISLE.



MR. THOMAS ELLIOT'S SHEARLING RAM (CLASS 2, NO. 682), PRIZE OF £15.

MR. T. C. BORTHWICK'S PEN OF EWES (CLASS 3, NO. 686), PRIZE OF £10.

had attained, and the absurd state in which they were exhibited. The judges disqualified some from being entered in wrong classes, and others, by the aid of Professor Simonds, for being over age. Had the weather been fine, and the sun's rays anything as strong as we have had them during this month, some of the unhappy brutes could not have lived through the week. As it was, one or two had to be physicked as they lay—stand they hardly could; and if the fat pigs of the Smithfield week can be fatter than these, then perhaps we may allow that, in this particular section of the show, one is a breeder's and the other a butcher's. At present we confess we cannot mark the distinction. This department of the yard was not quite on a par with the excellence to be found in others; though of the two classes, large and small breeds, the small pigs, both of the black and of the white sorts, were much to be preferred.

A very ragged as well as a very limited Poultry show, to be commended only for a few good Dorkings, completes our synopsis of the Live Stock catalogue. The time of year is said to be against this new feature. It is very certain that, so far, the poultry exhibition has not been worthy of the Society.

From a cause very easily explained the Implement yard was not numerically

so well filled as usual. We are inclined, however, to regard this as anything but a falling off. The northern part of the kingdom is not famous for agricultural implement makers. Beyond the Busbys and Crosskills of Yorkshire, there is scarcely a firm of any very high repute in this particular branch of mechanics. This will itself go far to account for a comparatively small show. But this is not all. There was a day, and not a distant one either, when the implement department of the Royal Agricultural Shows was crowded with inventions, not half of which were half perfected. The evil arising from this was manifest enough. At present we have not, may-be, so much to labour through, but almost every piece of machinery has now an established character and a recognised use. Manufacturers are gradually declining unprofitable collision with each other, and directing their energies more to the improvement of such machinery as they find they excel in. Thus—the Ransomes, the Howards, and Busbys are known for their ploughs; the Hornsbys, Tuxfords, and Clayton and Shuttleworth, as famous for their steam-engines. Crosskill has his carts and his clod-crushers, Garrett his drills and his dressers; while the two London firms, Messrs. Dray, and Burgess and

Key, with Crosskill, here again, are still approaching nearer and nearer to the realisation of a reaping machine.

This was essentially the character of the Carlisle Implement Exhibition. With one grand exception there was no novelty, but everyone was found to be still further perfecting what he had already been distinguished for. This was particularly the case with the steam-engines, in the order of merit for which some very remarkable changes occurred. The saving in coal in the first-prize steam-engine is regarded as something extraordinary, and the performance created a very general sensation. It is but right to add that the award was unanimously agreed to, while the achievement must have the effect of calling forth all the energies of other firms who have so far, perhaps, been but too well satisfied with what they had attained to.

Of almost equal importance, and unquestionably of more attraction to the agriculturist himself, are the trials of the ploughs and the reaping machines. In the former of these the struggle was, as usual, between the Ransomes and the Howards, for both of which Mr. Ransome was declared successful Howard's lighter plough receiving a high commendation. The ploughs o



MR. GEORGE ROBINSON'S PEN OF SHEARLING EWES (CLASS 3, NO. 530), PRIZE OF £5.
MR. GEORGE ROBINSON'S SHEARLING RAM (CLASS 1, NO. 517), PRIZE OF £17.

MR. GEORGE ROBINSON'S SHEARLING RAM (CLASS 1, NO. 537), PRIZE OF £7.

both these firms were beautifully turned out, the competition in the light or general purpose plough very close, and the award in this class one of the few that was at all canvassed. After but a partial experiment upon rye, the further trial of the reapers has been postponed until harvest, when four have been selected to meet again on the farm of the President, Mr. Miles, in the neighbourhood of Bristol. These are Crosskill's Bell, Dray's Hussey, Burgess and Key's McCormick, and Palmer's—a Scotch implement. Crosskill's, Dray's, and Burgess and Key's have all been much improved, the two latter particularly in the delivery; and the race, according to the best judges is supposed to be between them—Dray, from his past successes, being rather the favourite.

ON SOME REMARKABLE EXAMPLES OF IRREGULAR GROWTH IN THE OYSTER.

As the Oyster Season has already commenced, and as the attention of thousands (salesmen and consumers) is naturally directed towards this edible *bivalve mollusk*, which takes the precedence of all its conchiferous relatives as a delicacy, a few observations on some points connected with its history may not be inappropriate. Without entering into any abstruse scientific details, a few words seem necessary before we advert to the points upon which we would more particularly comment; and as examples of which we have sketched a few illustrations from nature.

The Oyster—or rather the inclosed mollusk, or “fish,” of the Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*)—is, as we know, protected by two strong shelly valves—an upper and an under one. The upper valve is flat, thinner than the other, and marked on its surface by tolerably regular crescentic lines, or scale-like *striae*, the results of its progressive growth. The under valve is convex externally, concave internally; its outer surface is rugose, with bold transverse marks of growth, and longitudinal ridges and intervening furrows. This shell is much stouter than the flat shell, and in old oysters often very thick and coarse, from the addition of layer after layer of calcareous deposit. Both shells are lined with *nacre* (or mother-of-pearl): that in the concave shell being thick, and covering a bed of granular lime, resembling dense chalk. We are now alluding to ordinary oysters, and not to delicate “natives,” of which both shells are almost diaphanous.

The two shells are joined together at their apex, by means of a sort of hinge, or elastic ligament or spring, the tendency of which is to open the valves; but in the living oyster this expansive force is counteracted by a powerful fibrous muscle, stretching from valve to valve, and around which the mollusk, with its mantle and delicate fringed gills (branchial membranes) is collected. When this muscle, from death, relaxes, the valves spontaneously open. But because we see (as is often the case) these valves apart, we are not therefore to conclude that the oyster is dead, for it habitually opens them to take in water, for the purpose of respiration, and with that water, the nutriment on which it subsists; quickly and strongly will it close them, if the experiment be tried—but this power of closure is nothing to that exerted by the great clam (*Tridacna gigas*) upon its huge massive valves (a compressing power like that of the vice), betwixt which the arm of a man would be fractured, and not cut but crushed asunder.

It is by means of the large under shell that the oyster becomes affixed to rocks, to stones, to accidental objects, as broken earthenware, and also to other shells, whether of its own species, or of others, which may afford it a basis of support.

These observations are rather applicable to the oyster in its natural state than to this bivalve mollusk in preserves, beds, or nurseries, where it lies free and unattached, and where it multiplies. At the same time it would appear that the oyster, after being excluded by the parent, commences existence in an affixed condition, though it may ultimately become free. Oysters in this early stage being very minute—in fact, animalcules—are collectively termed *spat*; and with this *spat*, or spawn, we have seen fragments of pottery, old oyster-shells, stones, and even strips of rag multitudinously covered. The breeding season of the oyster continues from May or the beginning of June to the close of July; and during these months the mollusk is unfit for the table, and is said to be *sick*, or in milk. If previous to the breeding season—viz., in March or April—the oyster be examined, an organ which may be termed the double ovary or egg reservoir, will be found replete with a milky fluid. Under a microscope this fluid appears to teem with minute eggs or animalcule embryos of a whitish colour. In June these embryos have attained to their proper size for exclusion, and have become invested with a tiny pellucid or filmy shell. They now pass down a tube or duct, and are carried to the gill chamber between the folds of the mantle, where the brood lodges for some time, involved in a viscid slime, serving as food to these animalcules, the transparent shells of which are continually opening and shutting at regular intervals. From this temporary lodgment, which reminds us of the pouch in the kangaroo for the reception of its helpless naked young, the animalcules, are gradually extruded, and by the end of July none will be found to remain.

Thus cast out by myriads into the circumambient water, and spreading abroad, the shell-clad little creatures become attached or glued to whatever objects are capable of affording them a resting-place. In the first instance this attachment would seem to be effected by means of the viscid slime with which the shell is covered; but, as the young mollusk soon begins to increase, adding to its shell by deposits of lime mixed with a glutinous secretion, a stronger and more intimate union takes place between the shell and the extraneous object, to the superficies of which it adapts itself, its figure being thereby accordingly modified, unless it becomes at an early period detached or free.

Of this modification of shape, according to circumstances, the *Chama*, and the spiny oyster of America (*Spondylus Americanus*), are examples. Shells of both are before us, strikingly exhibiting the results of adaptation. Mr. Broderip (Trans. Zool. Soc., 1834), on describing several new species of *Chama*, says:—

The shells are attached by their external surface to submarine bodies, such as corals, rocks, and shells; and have been observed at depths ranging from points near the surface to seventeen fathoms. These shells appear to be subject to every change of shape, and often of colour, that the accidents of their position may bring upon them. Their shape is usually determined by the body to which they are fixed; the development of the foliated laminae which form their general characteristic is affected by their situation; and their colour most probably by the food, or by their greater or less exposure to light.

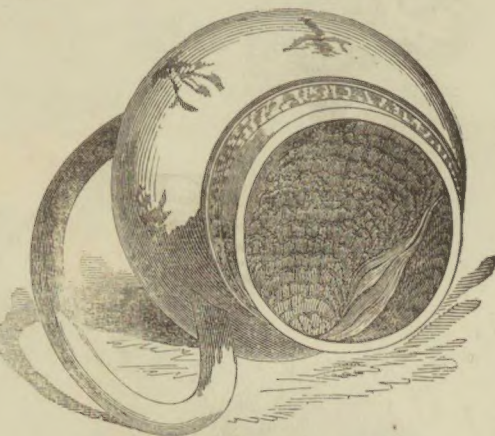
Unlike the oyster, it is sometimes by one valve and sometimes by the opposite, that the species of *Chama* are attached. In the spiny oyster before us, the attachment, between the lower valve and the coral on which it was fixed, occupies almost the whole of its exterior surface; and this part is destitute of spines, with which the upper valve is profusely covered. In instances where the attachment is less extensive, the unattached portions of the lower valves are, in like manner, spine-clad. The adherence is effected by means of foliations, or laminae, and it is chiefly to the branches of corals that these spiny oysters are affixed, and to which they accommodate themselves.

The foregoing observations will lead to a clear understanding of the specimens of which we give an accurate delineation.

Nos. 1 and 2 present us with an ancient Chinese teapot, destitute of the spout, but perforated with three orifices somewhat larger each than a crowquill, at the spot from which the spout originally projected. At some time or other, in this teapot, sunk to the bottom of the sea, an oyster took up its abode; it might have entered and fixed itself while in its *spat* condition, or have been washed in at a subsequent period. Be this as it may, in it the animal lived and grew, and became a prisoner; deriving its subsistence from the water which entered the three small orifices. No. 1 shows the mouth of the teapot, tightly and closely plugged up, by the lower or convex valve, which, in the position of the teapot as represented, appears uppermost, but which was probably not the case, as the vessel rolled about at the bottom of the water.

The portion of the valve seen rises abruptly from a lower flat margin extending disc-like or ring-like, within the vessel, to its swollen circumference, or nearly so; hence the impossibility of escape. This visible portion is in the form of an elevated mound, fitting the mouth like a bung, and closely stopping it. Its surface is transversely marked with striae, the results of growth, and with longitudinal ridges and furrows. A portion of this mound has been purposely broken away, and we there see that it consists of many layers of lime, placed one upon another, to the thickness of half an inch; the whole appearing as if the animal, clothed in a shell of thick putty or liquid plaster of Paris, had tried to force its way out by pressing upwards, and had thereby converted its shell into a plug, so as to block itself in, the putty or plaster becoming hardened. We know that such was not the process: we are speaking merely of the appearance. The process was gradual, and growth and adaptation of form kept pace with each other. But as at one time the oyster became introduced into its china palace, so it might have emerged, or been extricated by the action of the waves or by other accidental causes; but it was not so. Another strange thing is its situation in the vessel; why should it not have rested at the bottom of the teapot, or, supposing the vessel to be lying on its side, to have rested there, as on a bed not unaptly fitted to the natural convexity of the lower valve. We must presume that for a long period the vessel lay undisturbed with the mouth downwards, and applied to a flat surface, then the natural position of the shell would be as we find it, and the mouth-

rim would just be filled up, the shell thickening as it grew; this accomplished, the margin of the shell would be carried out beyond the mouth-rim into the protuberant part or shoulder of the rounded teapot, and thus the shell would outgrow the diameter of the doorway by which it once entered.



OYSTER-SHELL IN MOUTH OF TEAPOT.

The shell does not appear to have been really attached to the rim, as shells are to stones and to each other, but merely to have fitted as a stopper, so that when its margin was broken, and forcible entrance between the valves effected, it fell from its position into the body of the vessel, and therefore requires adjustment to restore it to its former place.

No. 2 shows the oyster lying in the anterior part of the vessel, on its convex shell, with the flat valve uppermost. The convex shell exceeds the other in size, and its protuberance, or stopper, is tolerably well accommodated in the concavity of the vessel's shoulder. The flat shell is striated

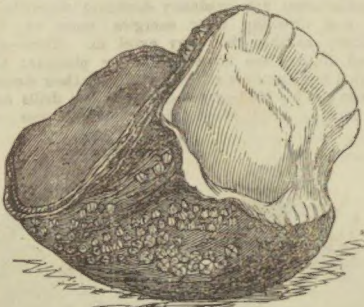


OYSTER-SHELL LOOSE IN TEAPOT.

as usual, but is far less coarse than the convex valve; while in both, the edge, near the hinge, is singularly reflected, or turned outwards, and impressed with linear and slightly waved narrow grooves, resulting from the deposition of additional layers, as growth was carried on.

Such is a plain description of this oyster-shell, locked in its singular prison. The specimen in question was dredged up in Falmouth river, and is now in the possession of Mr. Payne, of Blackheath, who has obligingly entrusted it to the writer, in order to enable him to make accurate drawings, and a careful examination.

No. 3 presents us with an example of cohesion combined with adaptation. Three oysters at an early stage of their existence, became agglutinated together, by the union of their convex valves, and thus they grew, accommodating themselves to each other, with a certain degree of distortion—a distortion which, with the ruggedness of the surface of each, and with the crop of acorn-shells (*Balanus*) affixed thereon, contributes to produce a singular and not unpicturesque effect. When this specimen came to our hands, the oysters were living, and the valves were opened by the knife, for the ordinary purpose.



THREE LOWER OYSTER-VALVES UNITED.

It is a curious circumstance that fossil oyster-shells have been discovered, the form and aspect of which have been modified in an extraordinary manner by the object to which they had attached themselves, and which impressed them with its own characters. In the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* for March, 1855, an account is given by Mr. Busk of the valve of an oyster-shell, resembling a combination between an oyster and a pholos (one of the rock and timber boring shells, so destructive to the labours of man). He is induced to believe that the oyster had encased the pholos, or, at least, that in its valve the pholos is enveloped. On this communication Professor J. S. Henslow, in a subsequent paper (April, 1855), makes the following comments:—

I suspect that such is not the case, and that Mr. Busk has the genuine shell (one valve) of an oyster only. A specimen of a fossil oyster which I prepared for the Ipswich Museum a few weeks ago, seems to explain Mr. Busk's puzzle. This shell (probably a detrital relic from the Suffolk drift) had attached itself by the lower convex valve to an ammonite, and as it grew had taken in a very complete manner the impression of its whorls. But the curious result has been that the upper valve, which was not in contact with the ammonite, has become partially modelled to represent it. Thus, the two valves together have the double impression of the ammonite, in intaglio below, and in cameo above. I suspect from this that Mr. Busk's oyster had grown with the lower valve (which he does not possess) attached to the outer convex surface of a pholos, and that the upper valve (the one in question) has in consequence been partially modelled after it. We must suppose in these cases that the mollusk accommodates itself to whatever curvature is impressed on the lower valve, and then the materials secreted for the upper valve will necessarily follow the contour thus given to the animal. It may be worth while to search for oysters attached to shells and rugged stones, to see whether traces more or less distinct of this sort of impress be not more frequently given to the upper valves than we have suspected.

That the impress is given more or less decidedly we can ourselves affirm; not, however, in all cases, but in many. Unfortunately we have lost the upper valves of our tri-conjoint specimen; but, in other examples which we have seen, attached to stones, where a transverse bend has necessarily taken place in the lower valve, a similar bend (only convex instead of concave—i.e., cameo and intaglio) has occurred in the upper, but with less decision. Even in one of the shells before us an irregular elevation makes the lower valve almost flat; and we well remember that the upper valve of that shell was so much more than usually elevated as to appear like the under one. It strikes us that, where by a strong impress of the lower valve the mollusk partakes of that impress, the upper valve, in its degree, must be accordingly modified.

In confirmation of these views we may here refer to No. 4, the representation of an old-fashioned champagne-bottle, from the wreck of the *Royal George*. The vessel, which is very depressed and globosely expanded, presents us in this sketch with four oyster-shells, or lower valves—all of which are modified by the configuration of the vessel. The two more immediately in front, instead of being concave internally, are convex, as necessitated by the globose figure of the body to which they adhere; so that, as the muscular impressions show, as well as the fractured nacreous surface, the oyster, instead of sinking into a bed, must have been elevated, or perched up, and consequently covered by an arched or vaulted valve, instead of by a flat valve—the order of things being reversed. Here, then, to

a certain degree, is an accidental torsion of the lower valve, and consequently of the upper, into an abnormal form, from the bulging of the surface of adhesion. The two other shells show rather how, by the disposition of layer after layer, the oyster makes the best of an *unfortunate attachment*, than display any decided alteration of the normal character of form. That lying on the base of the neck of the bottle, though somewhat irregular, is fairly concave, and is raised up by numerous rough external layers, acting as a sort of buttress. These shells must be of great age; the animals have lived and died in their present position, their shells have become worn, broken, and pierced by minute marine boring worms, and the remains of the nacre have lost all their once glossy smoothness. Other shells, of different ages, some small, some mere *spat*, are agglutinated to the bottom and opposite side of the vessel, mixed with fragments of a creeping foliaceous zoophyte.



BOTTLE INCRUSTED WITH OYSTER-SHELLS.—FROM THE WRECK OF “THE ROYAL GEORGE.”

The bottle is very dense, heavy, and opaque; it has lost all its transparency, if it ever had any, and the surface seems to have been acted upon by the saline water during long years of immersion. Except at the top of the neck, which is rather glossy as far as the sealing-wax coating extended, and of which a small red portion is yet remaining, the bottle seems as if it were made of a dull olive-black stone (basaltic lava), and when struck emits a low muffled wooden sound, resembling that given out by an iron-wood mortar. This interesting specimen is in the possession of Mr. Payne, of Blackheath, to whom we are indebted for permission to take our sketch.

The growth of the oyster, both as respects the mollusk and the shell, is tolerably rapid, especially in favourable localities: in about six months the shell, from a diameter of two or three lines, will have increased to that of a shilling; and at the end of a year it equals that of half-a-crown. But it is not until the close of the second or third year that the oyster is in perfection for the table. At this period the magnitude of the shell varies greatly; being comparatively small, and delicate in such oysters as have been transplanted from natural into artificial beds, when about six months old—large and coarse, in such as have not been so treated, especially along certain parts of the coast. With regard to the natural duration of life of the oyster nothing is very decidedly ascertained. Some have estimated it at ten years; certain it is that oysters, presumed from the size, density, and ruggedness of the shells, to be aged, are usually poor, emaciated, and unfit for the table.

Natural beds of oysters are found not only along different parts of our own coast, but that also of the adjacent continent, and from these are derived large supplies for the markets. The Romans, ever attentive to the luxuries of the table, held the British oysters in great esteem; and after their conquest of our island, introduced the plan of forming artificial beds. It is from such beds, adapted for fattening these mollusks, and improving their flavour and delicacy, that modern London is supplied in vast abundance. Oysters thus improved are known under the term of “natives,” and sell at a much higher rate than those dredged up from the natural beds and sent at once into the market. “The breeding and fattening of oysters for the London market forms a considerable branch of business. It is principally carried on in Essex and Kent; the rivers Crouch, Blackwater, and Colne being the chief breeding-places in the former; and the channel of the Swale contiguous to Milton in the latter. The oysters found in them are not, however, brought immediately to town, but are deposited for a while in beds or layings, in the adjoining creeks, where they are fed and fattened for the market. Exclusive of the oysters bred in Essex and Kent, vast numbers brought from Jersey Pool, and other places along the coast, are fattened in the beds. The export of oysters from Jersey is very considerable, amounting on an average to 208,023 bushels a year, of which a large portion comes to London.”—*M. Cullock's Statistics*.

These breeding-places, which are natural beds in favourable localities, belong to owners, constitute property, are protected by laws, and, like farms or garden-grounds, are leased out to parties who make the breeding and fattening of oysters a business. There are, however, unprotected beds on parts of the coast where no peculiar right exists, and from which all persons may draw a supply. But as no one is especially interested in their preservation, and as they are left to the mercy of fishermen, who dredge them even during the breeding months, these beds soon cease to be productive, and are, moreover, thinned by the brood being carried away and transferred to protected beds—as much to the detriment of the one as to the increase of the other.

Besides the beds in the rivers and creeks of Essex, Kent, Hampshire, and Dorsetshire, others, both in England, Wales, and Scotland, are held in high repute. Of the Scottish beds those in the Frith of Forth and Musselburgh Bay may be noticed; and, in Ireland, those of Carlingford in the county of Louth. In France the oysters of Brittany are much esteemed; as are those of Dieppe, Cancale (a town near St. Malo), and some other places. It is from these parts of the coast that Paris chiefly derives its supply; but Holland and Germany are extensively supplied from England—large quantities being exported from the Crouch, and from Rochester, Colchester, &c.

The consumption of oysters in London alone during the season is immense; and when we remember that from London barrels of these delicacies, to an enormous extent, are sent to country dealers, even in large towns, independently of what they procure elsewhere, we shall fail in our endeavours to form a correct estimate of the number of pecks landed from the boats at Billingsgate Market, and thence dispersed in every direction. How can such a vast supply be kept up, it may be asked, year after year—a supply always equal to the demand of the metropolis and the adjacent towns? Solely from the fact that the fertility of the oyster is such as to counterbalance loss by proportionate increase to replace the myriads removed by fresh myriads, to be succeeded in turn by others.

Here our observations close. As to the mode in which oysters are taken little need be said. They are dredged up by means of nets of a peculiar construction let down from fishing, or rather oyster boats upon the beds below. The boats, purposely constructed, are from fifteen to perhaps twenty feet in length, with a mast and sail; each boat, constituting part of a little fleet, works with two dredging-nets, and the weight of a single dredge averages about eighteen pounds. Hence, as it is drawn slowly over the ground, its iron rim, or mouth, acts as a shovel, and scrapes the oysters into a strong firm net. This dredge is from time to time hauled up, emptied of its contents, again let down, and dragged over the bed as before. Thus, hour after hour, till the cargo is complete, is the process carried on. The oysters are next either transferred to feeding beds, or sent direct to London.

Those who have seen a fleet of oyster-boats at work in some of our bays or estuaries, as in Whitstable Bay for example, will acknowledge that the spectacle is one of great interest. The vessels are ever in motion, tacking to and fro over the fishing-ground, and intersecting each other's course; their white sails now glancing in the sun, now darkened by a strong shade, and now again suddenly catching the light. Let the surface of the water be ruffled by a freshening breeze; the sky clear, with an early morning or evening sun throwing the effects of its autumnal radiance on the outline of the distant landscape, and the picture is complete.

THE AUTUMN SILKS.—Patterns sent post

the skin, it is not perceptible. It enables deaf persons to hear distinctly at church and at public assemblies. The unpleasant sensation of singing noises in the ears is entirely removed; and it affords all the assistance that could possibly be desired.—33, Albemarle-street, Piccadilly. Observe opposite the York Hotel.

POPULAR AMUSEMENTS OF PARIS.



BOOTH AT THE BARRIER.—(SEE PAGE 184.)



THE CHATEAU OF ASNIERES.—(SEE PAGE 185.)